

# ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the  
Irish Radio Transmitters Society  
September/October 2004

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The views expressed in Echo Ireland do not necessarily represent the views of the Society or the Editor

**Deadline for next edition  
November 20th**

**Region 5 (Cork)  
Annual Dinner  
November 5th**

**Shannon Basin Challenge  
November 7th**

**Mayo Rally in Knock  
November 21st**

**IRTS AGM 2005  
March 12/13th  
Limerick**

## Cork Experimenters in the 1960's



EI5AL, EI6AG, EI8AB, EI7AV, EI7AL, EI5AR, EI6AK, EI7AS

Picture provided by John Mooney EI6AK

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9 Series Calls:	Mark Condon EI6JK		

## News Bulletins and Readers

<b>Sunday</b>				
Dublin	1045	144.275	SSB	Albert EI6AS
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Colm EI3H, Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC
Wicklow	1130	7.068	SSB (as Gaeilge)	Paddy EI7GK
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Sean EI5GH, Brendan EI8IB
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI7IT, Gerry EI5HJ
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
<b>Monday</b>				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Con EI7DJB, Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.500		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.625		Aengus EI4ABB, Richard EI5GC
<b>Tuesday</b>				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	John EI8JA, Robbie EI8FZB

## Fingal Radio Club AGM

Fingal Radio Club held it's Annual General Meeting at it's meeting rooms in Erins Isle GAA Centre on Monday 18th. October last.

Club Chairman Chris Yeates EI7AAB gave his chairman's address and in doing so thanked both the committee and fellow members for their help and support in assisting him.

He thanked Sean Linehan EI7CV for his role as club treasurer throughout the year and also for his culinary skills with the Christmas Party feast the club enjoyed.

He also thanked Aidan Murphy EI5HW for his work as club secretary including his contributions to the IRTS news and for his 'practical' Hot Air Ballooning Lecture he brought to the club during the summer months.

Aidan was also congratulated on his Echolink project and for providing and making available his licensed Internet linking gateway to the general amateur radio community.

The George Stritch Memorial Award is awarded each year to a club member who in the eyes of the majority of club members, has shown or given exemplary and or exceptional service to the club over the previous 12 months. It also may be awarded to a person who in the eyes of the current members has served the club over many years in an unselfish and caring manner.

This year the award went to Joe Driscoll EI7CRB

In a unanimous vote the existing committee were re elected for a further 12 month term.

Regards,  
Aidan Murphy EI5HW  
Hon Secretary  
Fingal Radio Club

Phone: +353 86 252 7182

\* E-Mail: Aidan@BalloonTeam.net

## Region 5 (Cork)

### Annual Dinner

Vienna Woods Hotel, Glanmire

**Friday November 5th**

**Tickets €25.00**

### Contact

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**087-6290574 or 021-4883555**

**ei4bz@eircom.net**

## Roger Barker G4IDE - Silent Key

Thursday September the 9th 2004 marked a sad day for many packet radio enthusiasts worldwide, for that is the day that Roger Barker G4IDE passed away after a long illness.

Roger will be best known to packet users as the writer of the WinPack and UI-View software used by Radio Amateurs world wide. Not only was he known for his software, but his expert advice was always available if requested. Roger waived the normal registration fee for the EI5MRC Scout Centre Packet station at Mount Mellaray when he was informed that visiting scouts worldwide used it.

In a manner most befitting the man, the news that he had passed away peacefully in the early hours was received at the TIPBBS/EI3DIB within two hours of its being posted on the system.

The funeral took place on Wednesday 15th of September and many radio amateurs joined with the family at Boston Lincs Crematorium with tributes being received from all corners of the globe. TIPBBS and many others closed for 1 hour as a mark of respect at the 12.30 funeral time.

Readers who may wish to send a card of condolence to the family may send to: Mrs Dee Barker and Family, 79 South Parade, Boston, Lincolnshire, PE21 7PN, England.

For those who may prefer the electronic method the following website on which an electronic book of condolences can be signed, has been made available;  
<http://g4ide.ham-radio.ch>. May he rest in peace.

## Ian Webster

### EI8CTB - Silent Key

We were very saddened to hear of the death of Ian Webster, EI8CTB of Ratheny, Dublin, and formerly of Ardnacrusha.

Ian died peacefully on 18th September and his funeral took place on Wednesday 22nd.

We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife Phil, his daughter Valerie, sons Stephen and Robin and to all his relatives and friends RIP."

### Address Changes

Jim Bartlett EI2BB,  
"Chickamauga",  
Tinnahinch,  
Clonslee, Co. Laois.

Ciaran McCarthy EI8IH,  
Rathcosgrove,  
Ardrahan, Co. Galway.

## JAMBOREE ON THE AIR (JOTA)

The 47th Jamboree on the Air or JOTA took place on October 15/16th. Headquarters station for Ireland, EI1NCSJ was at the Helix in the campus of Dublin City University, as it was also the venue for the inaugural National Council of Scouting Ireland. Operation of this station was assisted by North Dublin Radio Club, EI0NDR and Charlie EI2EM who demonstrated ATV. Also in Dublin the 132nd Dublin Scout

Group was on air under its own callsign EI4BST and EI2SDR/J operated from the National Scout Campsite in Larch Hill.

In County Waterford, Mount Mellaray Scout Campsite was operational under its own callsign EI5MRC and in Tramore the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group operated from the Den of the 8th Waterford Scout Group under the callsign EI2SJW.

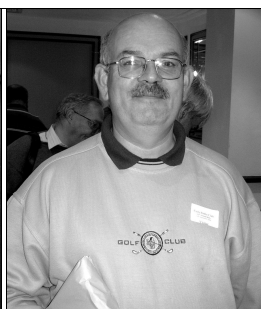
In County Kerry the 2nd Kerry Sea Scouts, EI2KSS operated from Tralee under the supervision of their Skipper, Brian EI4GL.

According to initial reports Scouts were in contact with JOTA Stations throughout Europe and as far as the USA and Australia. Scouts at the various stations got to use a wide range of modes including ATV, PSK and APRS. However the biggest hit with the Scouts was the IRLP network which enabled clear communications to the far side of the earth.

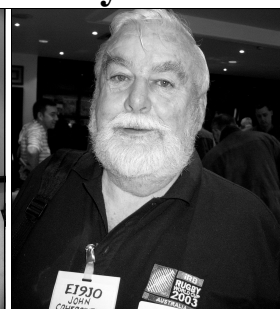
## Pictures from the Cork Rally at Blarney on September 19th 2004



Ger EI8HT



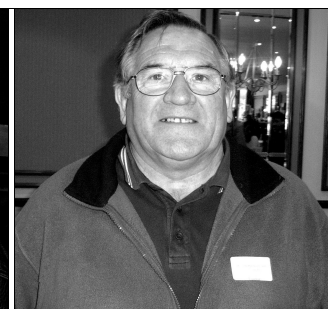
Willie EI9JM



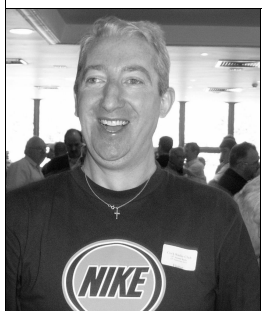
John EI9JO



Pat EI2GHB



Jack EI7HO



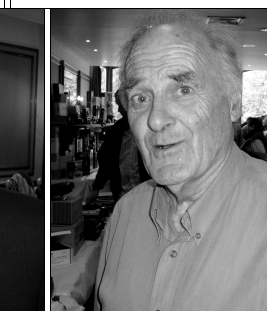
Declan EI9FVB



Bill Hurley EI9BX



Ger EI6DP



Sean EI5GH



Aengus EI4ABB



# RF Propagation Analyst

By Ger Kenneally EI8HT

What kind of a heading is that I hear you say? Is it that maybe Ger is getting a bit up-pa-tee in his old age? Or is it I'm getting fed-up with being referred to as a "Ham" So if you'll just bear with me, all will be explained.

Back in January of this year I decided to change my car or should I say the XYL's car that I got the use of whenever she didn't need it. One gets kind of fed up hearing "you can't take the car I need it for work" whenever I wanted to go anywhere for a few days. I'm not sure if its old age or as Noreen would say "you're loosing it boy". Ger, as always taking no notice of the little lady, did something I've wanted to do for a long number of years and what's that I hear you say?

Well I bought myself a "Van". Yes a van and what do you want with a van? It's got four wheels and it goes and I did need a second form of transport, so why not, I signed the car over to Noreen and got myself a lovely new "Steel Blue Short Wheelbase Ford Transit Van" The price was a little over the cost of the new IC-7800.

The first thing I did with the new van or as I prefer call it, the mobile/portable shack, was to panel it out with 3/4 inch plywood and also some very expensive Youghal carpet (from my sister's renovated front room).

Next in was a built in bunk, well we have to have somewhere to lay down for a little rest after a hard day's operating. The bunk doubled as a bench/table by hinging some work-top on to the side panels which dropped down and rested on the bunk.

Now for the technical side of fitting out the portable shack, what was I going to use for power? The main battery is not such a good idea as what would happen if it where to go flat? I could end up in some isolated spot looking for a jump-start and we all know how difficult it can be to get a jump in an isolated spot. So what do I do?

Well I go into my now famous scrounger mode and what do you think I spotted in Mike EI4HF's garage?

A bank of batteries in a timber box and as they were in his way, I took them off his hands. Now the cells in the box where configured to give 24vdc out. The batteries were duly loaded in the back of the van and I was thinking I had a little work cut out for me to reconfigure the cells for 12v when I happened to



call on John EI7BA.

John, been eagled eyed, spotted and asked what I was doing with said batteries. On explaining my intentions he says "have a look at what I've got and would I be interested in an exchange"?

Was I interested? Was I ever when I saw what he had: four sealed 12v batteries in a steel box configured to give 12vdc out, just the job.

With the batteries secured to the deck under the bunk, how was I going to charge them? I could always run an extension lead out from the garage and with a charger do the business. Then again I had visions of driving off with the van still plugged into the mains, so this really wasn't a runner.

Why not use the van as a generator? It did after-all have an alternator that was well capable of charging the battery bank in the back of the van.

Still I had to have some way of isolating the batteries in the back from the van battery. Why I hear you say? Well as stated previously, it can be difficult to get a jump in an isolated spot. So I fitted an isolation switch between the two batteries packs so that when I'm operating I'm only drawing from the batteries in the back. When I'm finished I start-up throw the switch and charge away as I'm driving.

Next problem is how am I going to run the computer? As we all know the life

span of the inbuilt battery on most laptops is only between one/two hours, not much good to me. The solution to the problem was to fit a 600w inverter, again drawing from the power bank in the back. This now gave me 230VAC, which now gave me the ability to drive the lap-top directly from the inverter,

allowing me to use an interface between the rig and the computer for log keeping, and also gave me the opportunity to use data modes i.e.. PSK, RTTY, PACKET.

What am I using for a rig and antenna?

I had a choice of rigs - a Kenwood TS 950 SDX or an IC-746. Neither of these are really suitable for working mobile/portable, as every time I moved the van

I would have to disconnect and store the rig (they don't like it when they slide off the bench).

So after setting up as a part time trader at the Cork rally, made a few "Bob" and invested in a new Yaesu FT-857D.

This has now been hard mounted in the back, Work still in progress as they say as I've also got the separation kit and not decided where I'm going to fit the front-end.

I'm thinking if I can get hold of a musician's microphone holder, a flexible type one, then I could with the front-end fixed to the top "bend it, flex it anyway you want it" or as old "Ingle-fart-humper-stink" used to sing "Please release me let me go". Joking aside it'll allow me the freedom to use and control the rig no matter where I'm sitting, i.e. in the front seat operating mobile or in the back working portable.

Antenna's - here's where it gets tricky. Over the past few months I've used a Windom, a dipole and a long wire. The idea was to drive to a chosen spot, park and set-up and be operating in as short a time as possible.

With this in mind I bought an SGC 230 smartuner and fitted it to the bulkhead just inside the side door. From the 230, I started using about 120 feet of end fed flex-weave, 100w max in an inverted v formation.

(Continued on page 5)



(Continued from page 4)

The antenna runs from the tuner to the top of a 40 foot fibreglass telescopic mast about 60 feet out from there to wherever I can find a convenient pole/tree to tie off to.

It worked well on some bands but not on all - the reason being Ger's luck. And what has luck got to do with it?

If you're using a long wire for an antenna and you happen to pick a certain length it will not tune on certain frequencies. I had a look in the junk box, pulled out a ball or length of flex-weave (about 120 feet) after about an hour untangling same, fitted and fired up from the tuner to find it didn't like some bands. So back into the junk box, found about another 30 feet of flex-weave, spliced both ends together and now it'll tune on all the low bands (and the high bands) and it's great during the day on 40m and later on 80/160m. I've found that the long wire is not so good on the higher bands but then again guess I'm a bit spoilt with the set-up at home and it would not be fair to make a comparison. Conditions have also been a bit manky lately on the higher bands.

On the plus side I or should I say we that is Neil EI3JE and I made the trip all the way down to Co. Wexford to take part in the RSGB's 6m contest. So on a beautiful sunny Sunday morning as Neil prepared the antenna I got the mast ready. We had everything ready in less than 1/2 hour, the only problem, well not really a problem, was we had to use my elbow as a rotator.

You know I've said that I'm not particularly interested in working mobile. It's true but still I had to give it a go. And what do you think I used as an antenna? About 30 feet of hard drawn copper wire, end fed from the smart-tuner, and running out the passenger window up onto four 3 foot long fibreglass poles lashed vertically one to each corner of the roof rack. Did it work? I got a 5/7 report on the Sunday 80m news call in. Better still I tried 40m mobile in the afternoon, again worked well except when going through town (still



lots of overhead cables).

Had a laugh when I pulled in for diesel and was asked what was on the roof? Got fed up trying to explain so said it was an electric fence to keep the sheep from jumping off as I drive along.

I must say that I've not had as much fun with radio in a long time. It's great to get out on a fine day throw out a bit of wire and see who you can work; also I'm amazed at the places I've come across.

Of all the spots I've found, the best one has to be the Ferry Point on the Waterford side of Youghal Harbour. It's a peninsula at least 400m long by about 60m across, sea water on three sides, and no locally generated QRM. Amateur Radio heaven!

To finish let's back up to the heading:-

#### "RF Propagation Analyst"

Why should we call ourselves "Hams"? If we lived in one of those countries where Mohammedanism was the preferred religion, would it not be an insult to refer to ourselves as part of the arse end of one of our porky friends. Also, like me, I'm sure most of you when filling out your application form

for your licence put the reason you wanted a licence was to carry out propagation tests. And what do you call a person who carries out tests - an "Analyst".

So, if you happen to see a van with a sign on the side the same as the heading, you can say that must be Ger the Analyst.

Hpe cu agn soon /P de Ger EI8HT.

#### Cork Rally

PS. One last point and I find it very difficult to put on paper my feelings about something that happened to me at the Cork rally.

This has nothing to do with the members of the Cork Club who put so much time in organizing probably one of the best rallies in EI.

Indeed they went out of there way to make space for me on the bring & buy stall. What happened?

Well over the past few months I managed to get my hands on parts from communication equipment which was heading for the scrap bin.

With the help and advice of others (friends) I was able to salvage certain parts that would be useful to others in the hobby.

At the rally I was using a plastic container holding lots of N type connectors, patch leads and other bits and bobs. In amongst this lot were two N-type in-line UHF attenuators.

One of these was lifted (stolen) by some light-fingered little lowlife of a tealeaf, who probably did not have a clue as to what he had stolen.

What really upset me was the thought this scab of a so-called person thinking that I'd not miss the stolen item. Even more upsetting was that he was depriving someone else the opportunity of picking up something that they could really have used at a bargain price. (€) So I guess we live and learn.

Again, my thanks to the lads from the Cork Club for putting on such a fine show.





# On The Air

With Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY

Anthony O'Rourke EI2HY,  
13 Hazel Road,  
Togher, Cork.  
ei2hy@eircom.net

Welcome to another issue of 'On the Air'.

We are now past the Autumnal Equinox and already you can hear a change in band conditions, very low activity from the Sun has lead to quiet and stable Geomagnetic conditions which are reflected in very good openings on **15m** to parts of the Far East over the North Pole and some JA's were even worked on **10m** one or two days either side of the Equinox!

## Band Reports

Some very good DX was available to work over the month of September and early part of October, the vast majority were of course also IOTA's so it was a double bonus for some DX'ers hi! A lot of very rare IOTA numbers appeared on from the Pacific during the month of September with the main focus being the Italian led trip to Hereheretue (OC-052) which was the rarest IOTA number in Oceania..

Operators Nando, IT9YRE, Claudio, IISNW and Alfio, IT9EJW, suffered a few delays and setbacks before finally arriving at the reef on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September to give us chasers a shot at crossing it off the 'most wanted' list!

Well known couple Mike, KM9D, and Jan, KF4TUG, sailed to some of New Caledonia's (FK) rare off-shore Islands to give out contacts from Huon Island (OC-058) and then from Pott Island, part of the Belep Islands (OC-079).

On 'mainland' New Caledonia eleven JA ops, who are members of Mitsubishi Electric Tokyo ARC, were active from September 16-19 as FK/JM1YGG.

Still staying with FK land and it's only separate DXCC Entity, we find a large German led team about to come on from the Chesterfield Islands (OC-176) and may be already QRV or even QRT by the time you receive this issue. The call sign was not announced until the expedition reaches the Islands which lie at approximately 19 52' South and 158 19' East and more than 350km from the 'parent' country New Caledonia which allowed them to become a separate DXCC Entity on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2000.

Two separate managers will take care of the cards, for SSB and RTTY it's DL5NAM and for CW and **6m** it's DL4XS.

A nice catch was P29SX who was G3SXW on one of his regular DX CW only trips, this time on OC-240 which was a new one for me.

Onto Africa now and a very unusual call was Miki, YT1CS, who came on from Kenya sporting 5Z4YT1CS with no 'slash' between 5Z4 and his home call. Apparently that's the way it was issued so the prefix seems to be 5Z4YT1 which is certainly unique hi!, Miki will be there until November 18<sup>th</sup>.

Gone QRT by now are some Spanish ops who were on from Algeria until Oct 9<sup>th</sup> as 7W0AD, cards to the busy HQ call EA4URE.

Also gone QRT if this doesn't reach you by October 20<sup>th</sup> will be the German led trip to Cameroon; operators DL7DF, DL7UFR, DL7KL, DL7DF, DL4WK, DK1BT and SP3DOI who had four stations active as TJ3SP and TJ3FR on all modes and all bands, except on 160m and 6m (no license).

Still active though is Kees, PA0CJH, who's on from Ghana as 9G5JH until November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Well know UN aid worker Michael, PA5M, went QRT from Mali as TZ5M on September 20<sup>th</sup> before heading onto Ghana (no operation from here) and then onto Benin where's he's currently active as TY5M. QSLs go to his manager PA7FM.

Another aid worker Robert, S53R, came on briefly from Chad as TT8KR until Sep 14<sup>th</sup>.

I'm still waiting to work Pat, EI5IF, who finally got issued the call EL2PM from Liberia where he's stationed for the next two months or so.

Very active on the key was JA op Take, JA4ATV, who can be heard most evenings on **15m** from Botswana as A22/JA4ATV and also keen to use the key and favouring **17m** a lot is Ralph, C93Q, with cards to VK4VB.

In for the long haul is Gab, HA3JB, who came on from Egypt as SU8BHI on September 21<sup>st</sup> and will be there until December 20<sup>th</sup>.

Rounding up Africa, we look to the Gabon (TR) with news that Dimitri, F5SWB, will be QRV from here as TR8DF for the next two months.

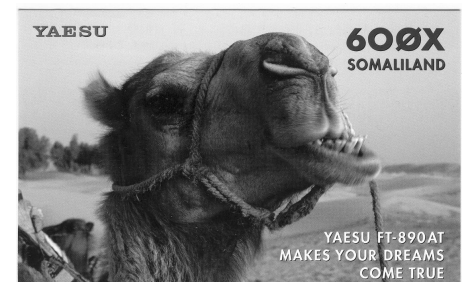
For those of you who like chasing Special Event calls and/or cards here's a brief taste of what was workable:

QRV for the month of October, members of the Northern Corridor Radio Group Inc (VK6ANC) in Australia were airing VK6175WA to commemorate the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the existence of the state of Western Australia.

Also celebrating a 'birthday', amateurs in Saskatchewan were able to drop the usual VE5 and VA5 prefixes and use CG5 and CF5 respectively to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prince Albert from Oct 3-16<sup>th</sup>.

In Asia, JT100M was used by Yuri, UA9OBA, as a special call until **September 13th** during the Mongolian leg of the Altay-Himalaya Transasian off-road expedition.

On from Turkey until November 2<sup>nd</sup> is Berkin, TA3J, who is using the call TC2K4J (TC2004J?) from Antalya in memory of the 'unforgettable' 40 silent



keys of Turkish Radio Amateurs. He will give a report every day on the memory of one TA silent key.

The club station of the "Ukrainian State Centre of Radio Frequencies" was QRV as **EM0ITU** during the period **September 20-24th** in connection with holding the ITU workshop at the "ITU Centre of Excellence" in Kiev, Ukraine. QSL via UT3UZ..

Some fun was had during the first weeks of September chasing all the special calls which came on from all the call regions of Russia to help celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of IARU membership by the SRR (Soyuz Radiolyubitelej Rossi) and had ten club stations come on with calls ranging from R1SRR to R0SRR (note that R2SRR was NOT on from Kaliningrad).

The big one for the keyboarders was the CQ WW RTTY Contest which was held over the weekend of September 25/26 and had some nice DX appearing on the screen. Amongst the 'goodies' to be worked were some of the following:

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

4L1BR, 4U1ITU, 5U7B, 7Z1SJ, 8P2K, 9J2KC, 9M2/G4ZFE, 9U6PM, 9V1UV, A45WD, A61AR, B1Z, BX4AF, CN8KD, CT3EN, DU3NXE, E21EIC, EA6LP, EA8RCT, EA9IB, EM1HO, EX2U, EY8BW, FR1HZ, HB0/DJ5BX, HC8N, HI3TEJ, JD1BKQ, JT1BE, LX5A, OH0I, R1ANF, SU1SK, SU8BHI, SY9Y (Crete), UK/JI2MED, VQ9LA, VR2BG, VU2WAP, YE0ANA and ZC4LI.

Staying with the 'traditional' log extract, regular contributor Chuck, EI4IS, sends in his monthly log extracts with some choice DX this issue, those to grace the log were:

D4B (AF-005), HK3JJH/YV7 (SA-012), HS0ZEE, J79XBI (NA-101), OD5NH, OY/DL2RMC (EU-018), V63CC (OC-010), VE7IG/1 (NA-154), YI0K and finally the juiciest DX of the lot, ZK3DX on rare Tokelau Island (OC-048).

Not much of note in my own log, just picked up a few new ones on RTTY during the contest and a few more like these outside it, 8Q7JF, J73CCM, OY/DL2RMC, and PJ4/N2WB.

### Up and Coming

The big Daddy of all HF Contests takes place on the last full weekend of October every year, the CQ WW SSB Contest, and sees DXer's heading out to far-flung parts of the Globe.

Amongst the operators who've announced plans to participate are:

4U1ITU with ops LA7JO, OM1AM, OM3CGN and PB2T;

A61AJ, a single op attempt by Robert, S53R, with cards to DJ2MX;

Jim, W7EJ, will once again head to Morocco on October 5<sup>th</sup> to be nice and early to operate as CN2R;

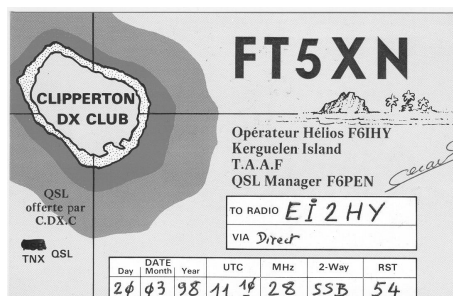
Vladimir, ZS6MG, will be doing a single-op entry from Namibia as V55V; Also in Africa will be AI, F5VHJ, who plans to operate single-op/all bands from Senegal as 6W1RY;

A large group of mostly Canadians will head for the tiny French dependency of St Pierre And Miquelon (NA-032) between Oct 23-Nov 2 and plan to take part in the Contest as FP/VE7SV, QSL's go to N7RO;

Heading east to Asia and Thai ops Champ, E21EIC, and Kriangkrai, E20HHK, will use HS8A;

Swiss ops Marco, HB9OCR and Piera, HB3YIY, will be on Praslin Island, Seychelles (AF-023) as S79MH for the contest.

As usual though, it's the Caribbean



which attracts the most attention during the CQ WW Contests, being as it is right on the United States doorstep so listen out for the following:

Puerto Rico will be the stop for members of the Yankee Clipper Contest Club as they set up shop as NP3U:

Single-op Lee, FF5MUX, will use TO7X from Martinique (FM); while US ops WA2VYA, W2OF and N2VW will be on Providenciales Island (NA-002) and part of the Turks and Caicos Islands to again be QRV as VP5T;

Listen out for Andy, AE6Y, who'll be sporting his new Aruba call P49Y from Oct 26 to Nov 2.

Going west to Central America, members of the Pine Mountain DX Group will be giving out Costa Rica with TI8M;

Heading to the Pacific, Tom, K7ZZ, is hoping to do a single-op entry from Tarawa (OC-017) in Western Kiribati with the call T30T, likewise single-op David, VK2CZ, will be on Christmas Island (OC-002) as VK9XD.

The CW leg of the CW WW takes place on November 27/28<sup>th</sup> and much of the same call signs will be heard but the Voodoo Contest Group will once again do the CW leg only from Niamey, the capital of Niger with the call 5U5Z. Operators will be: G0MTN, G3PJT, G3SXW, G4BWP, G4PIQ, K5VT, KC7V, and N7NG.

Plans are to run seven stations in the multi-multi section, cards will be via G3SXW.

Also in Africa will be SM2EKM, Jan, who plans to operate from Morocco as CN2KM from November 23 to December 1<sup>st</sup>, and a bit further south, Joe, AA4NN, and Chuck, W4GMY, will be QRV as C91F from Mozambique. Outside the Contest, and staying in Mozambique, Andre, ZS6WPX will be there on business between Oct 28<sup>th</sup> and Nov 1<sup>st</sup> and hopes to use C91Z, his wife Magda also might come on air as C91Y; Listen out for EA1QF and EB1AA who head for Cuba as part of a 'Radiosolidarity' project between Oct 12 to 25 and hope to use the call T42R,

QSL to EA4URE.

Look for special calls TG7M and TG7I to be operating from Mayan Biosphere, Guatemala from October 30 to November 1.

The Mayan Biosphere Reserve is located in northern Guatemala, in the frontier zone near Mexico and Belize. It is part of the Mayan Forest. Activity will be on 6, 15, 17, 20 and 40 meters on SSB, CW, RTTY, PSK31 and SSTV. TG7M will be used on the digital modes and TG7I will be used on SSB.

QSL direct only to TG9ANF, P.O. Box 50-C, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Andy, DL5CW, will be on from Curaçao (SA-006) and part of the Netherlands Antilles between Nov 1-15 as PJ2/DL5CW.

Looking ahead to next year, PA0RRS, Rich, will be on from Malaysia again, February 3-13 from East Malaysia, 9M6/PA0RRS, February 13-26 from Sarawak, OC-088, East Malaysia, as 9M6/PA0RRS/8, and February 27-March 29<sup>th</sup> from Penang Island, AS-015, West Malaysia, as 9M6/PA0RRS/2.

Hoping to activate a new one for the IOTA programme will be Mario, CE6NE, Marco, CE6TBN, Mike, K9AJ and Lucas, LU1FAM who head to the Rennell Islands, part of the unnumbered Ultima Esperanza Province South Group, SA-New) on 14-17 February 2005.

More Small Island hopping for SM6WET, Magnus SM6XMY, Tomas, ZK1SDE, Tim; and ZK1SDZ, Jed, who plan to operate from Aitutaki Atoll (OC-083), South Cook Islands between February 1 and 17.

Part of the team will go to the North Cook Islands where they will be active until February 24<sup>th</sup>.

They will be back on Aitutaki for more activity from February 25 to March 3<sup>rd</sup>. They plan to have mono-banders on 10, 15, 17 and 20 meters and a full sized vertical on 40 meters. They have not decided about 80/160 meters. They may also take a 5 element Yagi for 6 meters if they have space. Activity will be on SSB, RTTY and PSK31 with an effort in the CQ WW WPX RTTY Contest, QSL via M3SDE.

Also heading to a remote Island, but this time a small bit 'cooler', members of the successful Microlite Penguins DXpedition team (which includes our own EI5IQ, Dermot, and EI6FR, Declan) have announced plans to head, once

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

again into the freezer, to the French Southern and Antarctic Territory of Kerguelen Islands (FT/X) and IOTA AF-048.

It consists of the island of Kerguelen (also called Desolation Island) and about 300 islets, which together cover about 2,400 sq miles (6,200 sq km). Kerguelen Island is about 100 miles (160 km) long, has active glaciers and peaks up to 6,445 ft (1,965 m) high.

Discovered in 1772 by the French navigator Yves-Joseph de Kerguelen-Trémarec, the archipelago was annexed to France in 1893 and became part of the French Southern and Antarctic Territories in 1955.

Port-aux-Français is a scientific base on the main island.

Plans are to, once again, charter the New Zealand registered vessel Braveheart which was used during the hugely successful trips to South Georgia (VP8GEO) and the South Sandwich (VP8THU) back in 2002 which will take them to Kerguelen and will hopefully allow them to operate during the time-frame March 15 to April 02.

Looks like Dermot and Declan will be 'wetting the Shamrock' with some 'ice chilled' black stuff hi! I also hope that Declan and co are cat lovers as there's a large feral cat population on Kerguelen! I suppose it'll make a change from the rats on Campbell.

The end of an era happened on September 29<sup>th</sup> with the news that club station HZ1AB, after some 57 years or so in operation, has gone QRT from Dhahran,

Saudi Arabia.

Originally the United States Military Training Mission station and more recently the Dhahran Amateur Radio Club, it was first QRV in early 1947, the good news is that there are now 18 newly licensed Saudi ops so HZ would become very rare just yet hi!

Finally, if like me you worked Baldur, DJ6SI, on some of his trips to Somaliland as 6O0X back in 2002 and only thought it was a 'novel' contact, well the good news is that the ARRL DXCC Branch will accept QSLs for operation taking place in the Somaliland (northwestern Somalia) and Puntland (northeastern Somalia) autonomous areas as well as the southern and central areas of Somalia.

Operations possessing written permission from any recognized authority that is acknowledged to be in control of a particular region will be accredited. These QSLs will count for the Somali Democratic Republic (Somalia). QSLs for past operations will be accepted where proper documentation has been submitted. This is subject to change based on future developments in Somalia.

At least now I have Somalia confirmed on both CW and Phone on **10m** hi!

That's it for this issue, my thanks as always go to the Daily DX for snippets of news and to Chuck, EI4IS, for his log contribution.

Until next time, keep listening!  
73 de EI2HY.

## Limerick Radio Club

The Limerick Radio Club took part in the International Lighthouse weekend, August 21/22nd, from the Tarbert Lighthouse in County Kerry. The callsign was EI4TLH. It was a light hearted affair with everyone enjoying themselves. Three stations were put on the air.

Brendan EI0CZ operated CW using an TS850 and an R7 vertical, Mike EI9FEB operated PSK31 and some SSTV using an FT101ZD and his aerials were a homebrew vertical mounted on the top of the lighthouse, the other was an NVIS antenna just 10 feet above the deck. Mixed results were obtained.

The final station was the clubs IC756 Pro, running into a 42m top homebrew Windom fed into a Linear Amp Supertuner. This station mainly operated on SSB on the lower bands.

There were plenty of visitors to the station including a detachment from the Reserve Defence Forces in Limerick.

Over the weekend many members LRC put in an appearance and had a bash. The results were a mixed bag with conditions very strange, best DX was the far east, JA ,9V ,YB. A rough guess would indicated approx 1,000 QSO's over the weekend. The weather conditions on the Saturday night were very bad with gale force winds and heavy rain.

Paul EI6FE would like to thank all those that made the weekend so enjoyable especially to John EI6IW who made the whole event possible."

## Mayo Radio Experimenter Network

### Annual General Meeting

The new committee elected at the AGM of the Mayo Radio Experimenters Network is as follows:

Chairperson is Jimmy Kelly EI2GCB, Secretary is John Corless, EI7IQ and Treasurer is John McAndrew, EI3JM. The PRO & Club Newsletter Editor is Brendan Minish, EI6IZ.

Rally Director is Padraic Baynes, EI9JA. Michael Clarke, EI3IG is the QSL Manager and the Contest Manager is Terry Ebdon, EI9IW.

Don Gibbons, EI5IA is the IRTS Representative.

### Trophy Winners

The Connor Shield for outstanding service to amateur radio was won by Brendan Minish, EI6IZ and The Wishing Well Shield, for outstanding service to the club was won by Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB.

### August club competition

The results of the August Mayo REN Competition were announced at the September meeting.

First place went to John Corless, EI7IQ, second John Browne, EI7FAB, third Brendan Minish, EI6IZ, fourth John McAndrew, EI3JM, fifth Terry Ebdon, EI9IW and sixth Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB.

### September club competition

First place in the club competition for September was shared by John Browne, EI7FAB and John Corless, EI7IQ with Mike Hayes, EI2EO taking third place. Fourth went to John McAndrew, EI3JM, fifth going to Brendan Minish EI6IZ, with Jimmy Kelly, EI2GCB sixth. Terry Ebdon, EI9IW took seventh place.

The club runs eleven competitions for members annually, with an overall prize at the end of the year in addition to monthly prizes.

Members can only submit scores for ten months, and all the competitions are based on activity on the bands.

## National 4 Metre Activity Nights

**First Tuesday every month  
70.2625 MHz FM  
2000-2200**

# Cork Rally September 19th 2004



Ingo DH5ST and Vincent EI7HN



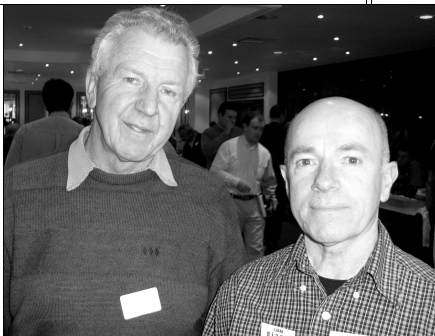
Michael EI0CL and Fr. Niall EI4CF



James EI2GCB, John EI7FAB and Joe EI3IX



Liam EI4FX, Hugh EI3IY and Brian EI5HV



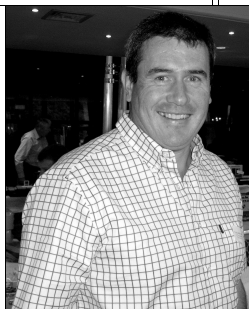
John EI6AK and Liam EI7FE



John EI3FU and Vincent EI5IO



Conor EI4JN



John EI2HW



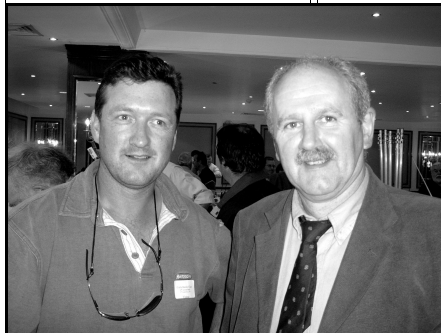
Stephen EI6JA



Michael EI5DCB



Mike EI2IB



Stan EI7DGB and Ciaran EI8IH



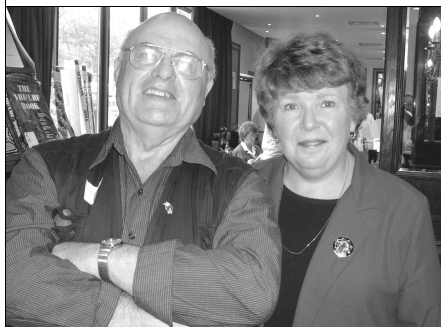
Toby EI7FO and Sean Martin



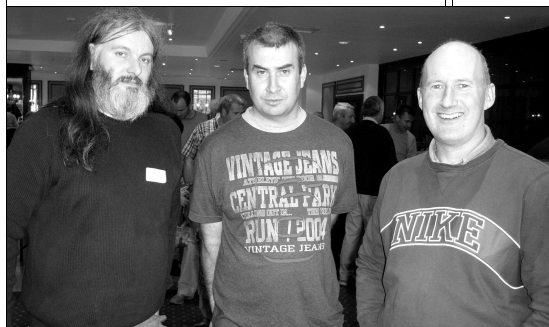
Ray EI9DM



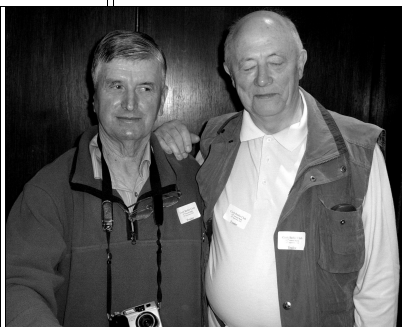
Dermot EI7IX



Mike EI8FG and XYL Liz



Eamon EI9GQ, James EI2IV and Charles EI5FK



Derek EI7CHB and Bill, SWL





# QRP: What is it all about?

Tony Breathnach, EI5EM

I recently heard another amateur describe QRP operation as being analogous to a masochistic boxer entering the ring with one hand tied behind his back. To accept this statement at face value does a great injustice to all those great QRP operators who enjoy this wonderful aspect of the hobby.

The internationally accepted definition of QRP is less than 10 Watts pep on SSB or 5 Watts RF output on CW. It is amazing what can be worked at QRP levels, especially when CW or data modes are used. Consider that, until relatively recently, very many amateurs operated QRP, out of necessity, with simple home brewed valve equipment. Black box transceivers started to appear in the 1960s. Expectations of higher power levels, as standard, date from around that time.

A hundred watts, relatively speaking, is probably a fairly respectable power level and would be the norm on this side of the Atlantic. However, having operated as W8EI5EM earlier this year, I realised, from reports received, that a large proportion of operators are using hundreds of watts in the USA. The QRM and noise caused are just incredible and unnecessary.

All of this unnecessary power can cause interference for amateurs and public alike. Many a TVI problem can be cured simply by reducing power. After all, aren't we supposed to use the minimum power necessary to complete a QSO? If everybody did that, then the bands would be less noisy and more enjoyable to work. There would be less QRM and splatter. Sadly, many operators aspire to putting out as many watts as possible rather than as few as are necessary. The motto of the G-QRP Club in the UK is; ***"It is vain to do with more what can be done with less."*** How true and inspirational this motto is.

The advantages of QRP operation are manifold. The chances of causing interference are much less. Rigs, ATUs, PSUs etc. are small, light, portable and inexpensive. Equipment can also be home brewed. Battery power is also an option. Commercial QRP rigs are usu-

ally small and light, loaded with the same RX features as their bigger brothers, but costing a lot less. QRP operation also lends itself readily to outdoor and portable operation. Many a QRO operator, forced to go QRP due to TVI or BCI problems, has discovered, to his surprise, that he is enjoying the hobby even more than before.

A QRPer's *modus operandi* usually involves lying in wait for a QSO. He has to be a patient, cunning and skilful. He calls CQ a lot less, relying more on answering CQs or tailgating existing QSOs, ready to pounce when they finish. Of course, there are also internationally agreed QRP calling frequencies, around which QRPer's congregate. Around 7.030 MHz is a good spot to listen on.

A lot of QRP operation is on CW, although SSB is also widely used. The main reason for this is that building and designing CW transmitters is less complicated and expensive than SSB transmitters.

Another important reason is that a CW QRP signal will, in general, fare better and be more successful than a QRP SSB signal.

There are many all-mode commercial QRP rigs on the market. The Yaesu FT-817 comes immediately to mind.

I once owned one of these miniature marvels. Many well-designed kits are also available.



TenTec 1320

The most recent QRP kits that I have constructed are the Elecraft KX1 and a TenTec 1320. The TenTec is a 20 metre CW superhet with 4 Watts output. The KX1 is a tri-band, superhet, 5-Watt CW rig with inbuilt automatic ATU,



Elecraft K2 PCBs

electronic keyer, twin paddles and battery pack. It covers 20, 30 and 40 metres. With the internal batteries its output is over one Watt. See the accompanying photographs.

MFJ, and many other suppliers, carry a nice range of QRP kits. All of these come complete with fully illustrated, detailed instructions and online customer support.

Many PSK31 operators have adopted a QRP approach. QRP is particularly suited to this and other data modes. Of course, one of the simplest ways to try out QRP is by turning down the wick on your HF rig. Perhaps it will not go down as far as 5 Watts. However, turn it down as far as it will go. You will be amazed with what is still possible and with the surprisingly good reports you will still receive. Generally, you will find that you will receive reports about two or three S points down from what you would usually expect with a 100-Watt rig. But what the heck; 559 or 55 is a good report nonetheless!

Two international QRP clubs that I highly recommend joining are the G-QRP Club in the UK, and QRP ARCI in the USA.

Both publish quarterly magazines, which are excellent value for money. The magazines are filled with news, reviews and technical articles of interest to QRO and QRP ops alike. The many companies specialising in QRP kits and equipment also advertise in these publications. Membership of the G-QRP Club costs about ten Euro per annum. It has its own QSL bureau and also sponsors many QRP awards and contests. Membership of QRP ARCI costs about \$25.

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

For a lot of QRPers, construction of equipment is a major part of their enjoyment. Some content themselves with kit construction, while others enjoy building from schematics or from their own designs or ideas.

I attach photographs of such equipment. For inexperienced constructors, kits are an excellent way to start. I particularly recommend Elecraft and TenTec kits. The instructions are foolproof and online support second to none. However, the ability to solder well is a must before attempting to build a kit. I use an Antex 15W soldering iron most of the time. Usually a multimeter is the only piece of test equipment required. My own eyesight has deteriorated in recent times, and now I use a bench lamp fitted with a magnifying lens. I also use a "Sherlock Holmes" type of hand lens for close inspection of soldered joints etc.



**Elecraft K2**

Over last Christmas holidays, I built the Elecraft K2 from a kit, see photograph. I also built the internal 100 watt module and the external automatic ATU. Yes, I admit it is QRO, but I treated myself. In any case, the wick can be turned down all the way to 0.1 watt if required. The receive characteristics of this rig surpass those of commercial rigs on the market, bar none. That was my main reason for purchasing. The entire project took me about eighty enjoyable hours altogether to build..

During construction of the K2, I encountered four technical problems. On each occasion an evening e-mail to Gary at Elecraft had a solution in my e-mail inbox the following morning. Three errors were my own fault; a diode inserted incorrectly, mistaking a grey toroid core for a black one (eyesight error) and a dry solder joint on a toroid coil.

The one problem that was not of my own making was quickly rectified by adding a small capacitor from the junk

box, as advised in an email from Elecraft.

Elecraft hit the Bull's Eye every time. Take a look at the site [www.elecraft.com](http://www.elecraft.com).



**Bosca 40**

My 40-metre Bosca 40 CW QRP rig shown above is a real home brew job. It was originally built breadboard style before final design was settled on. My junk box is full of bits and pieces discarded in favour of improvements made as a result of experimentation. A lot of time, effort and expense went into arriving at a final optimised design.

When I was satisfied (almost), I hand drew PCBs and rebuilt a more compact and presentable final version.

This rig contains an inbuilt ATU, two SWR meters, frequency counter, digital signal processor, iambic keyer and a 500-character programmable memory. Output is 4 Watts RF (6dBw).

I have made thousands of contacts with this rig. The thrill and satisfaction of hearing "EI5EM de ---" coming back to me in CW as a result of a CQ call never diminishes. Operating QRP on a home made rig for me is the ultimate satisfaction of amateur radio. It is just magic, particularly if the other station is QRP and home brew as well.

I realise that homebrewing is not everybody's cup of tea. However, you do not need to be a homebrewer to operate QRP. Many commercial QRP rigs are on the market, new and second-hand. As I mentioned earlier, your QRO rig may also be capable of QRP by simply reducing the drive. Why not give it a try some time?

Far from feeling like a one-armed pugilist when operating QRP, I feel more like a lightweight entering the ring to fight a heavyweight and managing to last the distance. Perhaps I lose the bout on S points, but I emerge from the ring, unscathed and raring to get back in for the next bout, be it QRO or QRP!

QRP operators are not masochists. Neither are they elitist. Most of us operate

QRO as well. We simply enjoy the buzz that we get from QRP. In fact, I would be the first to take off my hat and congratulate the many fine QRO operators who take the time and make the effort to copy our sometimes marginal, weak QRP signals. Without these superb QRO operators, QRP would be a lot less enjoyable than what it is.

### **Web Sites**

If interested in becoming more involved in QRP, having first tested the waters by turning down the wick on your QRO rig, I would suggest joining the G-QRP Club. The web site is [www.gqrp.com](http://www.gqrp.com). SPRAT (Small Powered Receivers And Transmitters), the quarterly magazine includes lots of useful information, circuits and ideas. The club also sells QRP related books, components and merchandise. A CD containing the first 110 issues of SPRAT (£10) is great value indeed. Why not give it a try and join for about the price of two pints? The four quarterly magazine alone are worth more than that. The RSGB, [www.rsgb.org](http://www.rsgb.org) also sells many QRP-related books online. ARRL's selection of QRP literature can be perused at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org). The American QRP ARCI site is at [www.qrparci.org](http://www.qrparci.org). My own QRP web site is [www.qsl.net/ei5em](http://www.qsl.net/ei5em).

### **Recommended QRP reading**

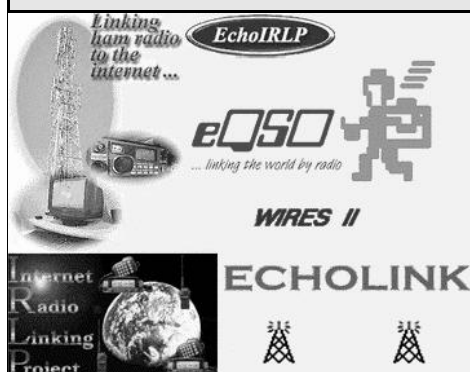
- W1FB's QRP Notebook (ARRL). Easy reading and circuits that work first time.
- Solid State Design for the Radio Amateur (ARRL). A little dated now but still excellent.
- QRP Classics (ARRL). An anthology of many published QRP designs.
- Low Power Scrapbook (G-QRP).
- A pot-pourri of articles from past issues of SPRAT.
- QRP Power (ARRL). Latest QRP publication with excellent working circuits.
- QRP Basics (RSGB). An introduction to QRP, not too technical.
- G-QRP Antenna Handbook (G-QRP). A wealth of information for all amateurs.
- Experimental Methods in RF Design (ARRL). Expensive but a great reference book for all amateurs.
- Radio Products for the Amateur (G-QRP). Full of tested circuits for Rx and Tx.

A big 72 es 73 de Tony EI5EM



# Working the world on VHF and UHF FM - using internet gateways

Ian Abel G3ZHI g3zhi@hotmail.com



Would you like to keep in touch with your hams friends all over the world any time of the day or night?

Moved into a retirement home where HF equipment and antennas are not allowed?

Have you had to take down your tower and beam because you can no longer maintain them?

Then why not use an internet gateway to keep in touch with hams friends around the UK and the World.

Internet gateways operate on VHF and UHF simplex channels and repeaters using FM. The quality of the audio is mostly excellent and because you are using the internet and not radio there are no problems with propagation. You can just dial up your friends whenever you wish.

## Background

For nearly 10 years radio amateurs have been experimenting by connecting their

VHF and UHF FM radios to the internet.

In the year 2000 after a personal request from Ian G3ZHI David Hendon G8DPQ who was the Chief Executive of the Radiocommunications Agency gave his personal permission for internet gateways to be licensed in the UK.

Now there are around 4,000 ham radio internet gateways all over the world many available 24 hours a day.

## Operating an internet gateway

Using an internet gateway is very easy.

There are 3 main gateway systems in use Echolink eQSO and IRLP

With Echolink and IRLP it is possible using a hand held radio with DTMF or a DTMF MIC on a base station to individually call a station via the gateway.

So for example on IRLP if you wanted to call a ham in Sydney Australia using your hand held you would press the PTT and press the DTMF key numbers 6 0 0 0 then release and listen.

You would hear a voice announcement telling you that the link was connected. You would then talk and carry on a QSO normally as you would if you were working a local station. When you have finished you press the PTT and the press DTMF 7 and then 3 which closes the link.

You will then hear another voice announcement informing you the link has been closed.



You should always listen first on a gateway frequency to see if it is in use. You can also send a '0' to see if it connected to anywhere.

Recently a local ham from Doncaster Kevin G8JJR visited Perth for 8 weeks and he was able to keep in touch with his friends back home in South Yorkshire by calling from there every day using his hand held working the local repeater which is connected to the IRLP network.

Echolink and eQSO can also be used from a PC computer providing the computer has a soundcard with MIC and speakers attached.

IRLP can only be used using a radio.

If you are on the internet you can see the live status pages showing which nodes are connected on all the three systems.

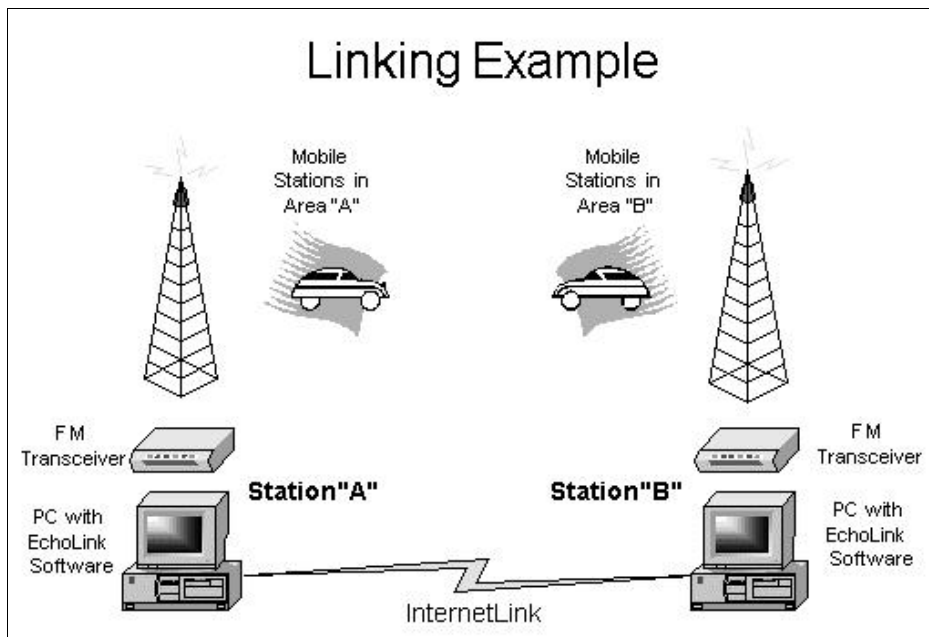
Much more information is available on the web sites.

If you have any questions please contact me, g3zhi@hotmail.com  
01709 799911 Mobile 0783 338 0578

More information can be found at:

<http://www.echolink.org>  
<http://www.irlp.net>  
<http://www.eqso.net>  
<http://www.qsl.net/g3zhi>  
<http://www.gb3dx.co.uk>  
<http://www.ofcom.org.uk>

(Continued on page 13)



(Continued from page 12)

<http://www.rsgb.org>

[http://www.dcc.rsgb.org/ShowGates.asp?](http://www.dcc.rsgb.org/ShowGates.asp?call=ALL)

[call=ALL](http://www.ukirlp.co.uk)

<http://www.ukirlp.co.uk>

<http://www.gb3ir.co.uk>

<http://www.eqso.info>

Ian Abel G3ZHI, 52 Hollytree Ave,  
Maltby, Rotherham, Yorkshire, S66 8DY

G4NJI IRLP 5200 Echolink 135909  
Rotherham simplex 145.2875MHz

GB3XN IRLP 5708 Echolink 153126  
Langold 430.925 MHz

Tel: 01709 799911  
Mobile 0783 338 0578

Here are some examples of the information shown .

**IRLP Node Status current as of  
07/9/2004 06:25:05 GMT**

Network Summary

1384 - Total Nodes 86 - In Use

805 - Idle 58 - Offline

Antarctica	2
Antigua	1
Australia	71
Barbados	2
Belgium	1
Bermuda	1
Botswana	1
Canada	236
Cayman	1
Chile	1
China	1
Denmark	1
Dominica	2
Ecuador	1
England	57
France	1
Germany	6
Grenada	1
IRELAND	1
India	1
Jamaica	1
Japan	11
Korea, Republic of	1
Mexico	7
Netherlands	4
Netherlands Antilles	2
New Zealand	11
Norway	3
Puerto Rico	1
Saint Kitts & Nevis	1
Scotland	5
South Africa	5
Spain	1
Sweden	15
Trinidad	1
Trinidad and Tobago	3
USA	917

**Sample IRLP Node codes and locations :**

Length of current node status.

Node	Callsign	City	Prov./St.	Country	NodeFreq	CTCSS
3540	W6DXX	Palm Springs	CA	USA	445.6400	131.8
3257	WA7DG	Reno	NV	USA	147.3000	
3160	WA6RQD	Oceanside	CA	USA	446.8600	0.0
3150	WA6RQD	Oceanside	CA	USA	449.3200	141.3
3900	K6MF	San Jose	CA	USA	1286.4500	123.0
3671	K6SA	Saratoga	CA	USA	146.6550	114.8
4865	KG4ZXK	Portsmouth	VA	USA	145.6000	0.0
8310	KB5KZS	Bartlesville	OK	USA	145.7000	88.5
8274	XE3NO	Oaxaca	Oaxaca	Mexico	146.8800	103.5
2380	VE6RJO	Calgary	AB	Canada	147.5100	100.0
8710	KD5KTB	Enid	OK	USA	146.5550	97.4
7240	KB2CDY	Payson	AZ	USA	146.4200	100.0
4490	WB2CIK	West Hills	NY	USA	447.9500	114.8
4870	W1HHO	Mid Coast	ME	USA	449.1250	82.5
6000	VK2RBM	Sydney	NSW	Australia	147.0500	0.0
5450	GB3PZ	Manchester		England	430.9000	82.5
5400	GB3PZ	Manchester		England	430.9000	82.5
4300	N3APP	Erie	PA	USA	147.2700	141.3

**Sample list of echolink nodes and locations**

4Z4IZ-R	HAIFA	R-12 Rpt.	169676
4Z7CCF-L	Tel-Aviv	432.675Mhz	
7K1FHJ-L	Ohshima	432.34	128671
7K1NAQ-L	Bunkyo,Tokyo	1294.82MHz	22778
DL9GRB-R	Link to DB0DBR		159122
DM0ZAA-L	Duesseldorf	144.975 MHz	136397
DM0ZBB-L	Boeblingen (BB)	430.025	6877
DO0SMZ-R	Mainz	439.2125 MHz	100823
DO0ZB-L	Berlin	144.975	pse CQ 8222
DO0ZFG-L	DO @	144.975 Mhz	154965
DO1GUM-L	Freiburg, Black Forest		129169
DO1HEN-R	D B ÿ S Y - HAMBURG		153627
DO1JOH-L	GER JN49MD	145.575	151037
DS5CLX-L	deagu	145.540 (1)	21440
DV1LWQ-L	In Conference *MAKILING*		30919
E20ZGH-L	In Conference *TACLUB*		177730
EA1RCW-L	FOZ		172581
EA3RCB-R	Palamos	145.300	113456
EA4TD-L	In Conference *ESPANA*		82308
EA5RCI-L	In Conference *ESPANA*		97451
EB2CTZ-L	In Conference *ESPANA*		153942
EB2FGI-L	In Conference *ESPANA*		115083
EB4CKB-L	In Conference *ESPANA*		24853
EB8BCG-L	Tenerife	145.550 MHz (1)	56868
EB8CHG-L	lanzarote pls cq		128358
F5POE-L	Forges les B 91	144.525	76584
F6CDD-L	Toulouse	145.250	100889
G0OPD-L	South Hampshire		1515
G0WYG-L	Bromley Kent,UK	434.475	3275
G3SNA-L	Greenfield Lincs		2586
G3ZHI-L	Maltby South Yorks		99045
G4IPE-L	Louth, UK www.g4ipe.com		37980
G4LCH-L	Solihull UK		136330
G6CKK-L	Rochester Kent	145.2 (1)	93069

# Hamming it up in our Hot Air Balloon. A Flight of Firsts - By Aidan Murphy EI5HW

*Aidan Murphy EI5HW has been flying Hot Air Balloons for a number of years. He blames Amateur Radio for getting him hooked on ballooning.*

*A licensed radio ham, since February 1995, it was of course a natural progression that Aidan operate amateur radio from his light than air craft ..... and work the world while doing so... this is his story.*

I got involved in the sport of Hot Air Ballooning not long after obtaining my Ham Radio License. The idea of being able to operate amateur radio from an open wicker basket, high in the sky with no obstructions was just too strong a thought to go away. After enjoying 5 years crewing with a balloon (there's about 10 in Ireland), I figured it was high time (pun intended) I take my new-found interest to the next level, so I commenced my flight training.

A hot air balloon is a registered aircraft, the same as any fixed wing aircraft or helicopter. As such the person in command must hold a valid Private Pilot's Licence issued by the Irish Aviation Authority\* specifically for ballooning; this is known as the PPL(B). After completing my written exams in: Aviation Law, Navigation, Meteorology, Flight Radio Telephony, Balloon Systems and Human Performance, I commenced my practical flight training. The latter took 2 years to finish, weather and money being the obstacles in my way, but not always in that order.

Although anyone with average ability can fulfil the requirements for the PPL (B), it is not an activity to be taken lightly. As a pilot you must be sufficiently competent at operating the balloon and have such knowledge to be able to cope with any problems or circumstances that may arise. In addition you will be responsible for the lives of the people you might carry in the basket.

Last year, I was very fortunate to be in a position to purchase my own balloon, Cameron Balloons in Bristol (United Kingdom) were charged with the responsibility of building it. Apart from small personal additions I asked them to make to the craft (all within the safety



## 'Liftoff Imminent !'

Pilot: Aidan Murphy EI5HW, Co-Pilot: Mike Mills, foreground in basket: Margaret Gavigan.

Right (outside of basket): Alison Ryan (Retrieve Crew).

of aviation regulations), I asked for it to be the most colourful balloon in the sky, as you can see from the photo's (although B&W), I think you will agree that Cameron's duly obliged. As I opted to go with a UK (\*C.A.A) aircraft registration, I asked the powers that be could I have a reference to Ham Radio within the registration mark?.

With my new balloon sporting the registration 'G-CCHW', one can notice I quietly and discreetly got what I asked for. All I needed now was a green light and some paperwork from the Irish authorities. With the balloon being hand built in Bristol, it was now time to put things in order back home here in Ireland.

With the thought in my mind (telling me how opportune it would be to use my Balloon to promote Amateur radio here in Ireland) and with the assistance of Mike Wright EI2DJ, I established B.A. R.C. The Ballooning and Amateur Radio Club of Ireland. Its aim would be to cross promote two very unique hobbies, Amateur Radio and Hot Air Ballooning. It shouldn't then come as a surprise that we obtained the novel call sign 'EI2AIR' from Comreg\* with aeronau-

tical mobile privileges attached. This indeed would form the core of our unique asset, being able to work Amateur Radio from the Balloon.

As ballooning is a fair weather sport, our main season is during Irish summer time, when slack winds and (minimal) rainfall prevail. At the beginning of this Summer I applied for and obtained an Echolink Internet-Linking\* license from Comreg with the call sign EI2AIR-L on frequency 145.2875 MHz and using the custom node number 5-747 on the internet gateway.

My plan was coming together, fly the balloon within line of sight of my shack and we could work the world while Hot Air Balloon/Aeronautical Mobile, using my H/T with DTMF facilities to control the link remotely.

To make it more interesting, while ballooning, it would be nice to work a fellow Irish Ham who might perhaps be living abroad.

It wasn't long before I tracked down Ben Croly, formally EI8EQ when living in Ireland, but now 9H1DQ and residing in Malta, the centre of the Mediterra-

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nean. After speaking with Ben on a number of occasions via Echolink, I advised Ben of my suggestion. He was of course totally on for it. The next thing I had to do, was advise my balloon crew what our plan was. Everyone thought it was a unique idea, so we set about putting our thoughts into practise.

The plan would be to do an evening balloon launch (you can't fly a hot air balloon during a summers day because of the presence of thermals) and have a 2<sup>nd</sup> Pilot on board to fly while I would be calling for Ben 9H1DQ in Malta on 145.2875Mhz.

With my co-pilot, Mike Mills on side and my loyal crew of Alison, Marie, Ray, Margaret and the Rev. J.C all on stand-by, it wasn't long before a pleasant Irish summers evening presented itself. Alison and Marie would be the all important retrieve crew, Ray would be our official photographer for the evenings project, Margaret (Rays XYL), who has crewed with us for the past year would join us for her first ever balloon flight while the Rev. J.C would look after any landowner relations issues (should they arise) on the ground for the duration of the flight.

At approximately 7:30 pm on a sunny August evening, we took off, from 'Robinstown', a launch site of lush green pasture 15 miles North West of Dublin City, 4 miles south west of Navan town and 10 miles north west of my radio shack in Dunshaughlin, in County Meath.

Back in Dunshaughlin my Echolink node was patiently waiting for the Balloon-Malta link to go live. It wasn't long before we reached 1,000 feet, high enough for my H/T to see my shack

I handed over control of the Balloon to co-pilot Mike, Margaret was busy enjoying her very first balloon flight and I switched on my radio to 145.2875 MHz. Immediately I could hear Ben 9H1DQ in Malta calling me. During our transmission from the Balloon, I explained to Ben we were drifting within an 8kt breeze over the North East of County Meath at a pleasant altitude of 1,000 feet. Signal reports were duly exchanged and Ben informed me we had a U.S amateur also on frequency, James Flaherty WJ2F in Raleigh NC. Both James and Ben are members of 'The Irish Hour', a group for radio hams who form part of The Irish Hour Net Sundays on 21.317 MHz and Monday through Friday on 21.243 MHz. I must say it was quite unusual to be flying the balloon here in Ireland while simultaneously working James WJ2F in North Carolina in the States and Ben 9H1DQ in Malta.

With the QSO's on the Echolink gateway brought to a close, and a special EI2AIR Hot Air Balloon/Aeronautical Mobile QSL card promised to each station, it was time to pack the radio away and start the serious task of flying on and looking for a landing site.

At this point in time, it's important that I mention that one has little or no control on which direction the balloon will fly as you are quite literally 'Gone with the Wind'. However, that being said, it wasn't too long before 3 large cut corn fields presented them selves.

A quick call on our airband transceiver (122.475 MHz AM) to Alison and Marie doing retrieve and to the Rev J.C doing landowner relations, we promptly advised them that we would be landing soon. We followed this with a final passenger briefing to Margaret "bend your knees, hold on to these handles and don't leave the basket until you are told to"... the scene was now set, it was time to land.

Any one of these fields would be well capable of taking the balloon, so we commenced our approach. Carefully



venting some hot air from the balloon to initiate our descent while at the same time putting carefully timed burns into the balloon to slow our sink rate. It was not long before we were on final approach, travelling at a nippy 9kts and something that happens a lot in Ballooning just happened again. The balloon flew right along a large long tree line separating the cornfields, not left or right of it, but surgically positioned on top of them. It was time to use our 'air breaks', so I gently let the bottom of the basket rub against the top of the tress, this would slow us down and might just assist in changing our direction, even in the slightest manner.

The plan worked and the Balloon slowed down to 5 kts and gently drifted off one side of the trees. With no time to spare, another quick vent of hot air followed by a short top up of heat and we touched the ground. Just a few more pulls on the parachute line and we were safely back on terra firma, a pleasant 'stand-up' landing was duly accomplished.

Within minutes of us landing, our retrieve crew were on site. The Rev J.C had done a superb job on landowner relations. It's harvest time and he spotted the farmer on the road bringing in a load of corn from a neighbouring field. On seeing the Rev, the farmer had no problem in granting instant access to the field we were in. With all our crew to hand and teamwork being carried out in a clockwork fashion, we had the whole balloon packed securely away within 15 minutes. With a local hostelry just 3

(Continued on page 16)



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minutes down the road, it was time to savour a few beers and recap on the 'flight of firsts' we just had.

The first amateur radio/internet-linking contact from the balloon, more importantly with an international flavour attached to it and Margaret's first ever balloon fight, it was definitely smiles all round by everyone.

The Rev. J.C even joined us for a beer.

Forget what they were saying about the internet killing off the interest in amateur radio, quite the contrary, the net just gave birth to a whole new wave of opportunities our wonderful communications hobby still has to offer, working the world from a Hot Air Balloon is just one of them.

Aidan EI5HW.

Authors Email Address:

Aidan@BalloonTeam.net

Authors Website:

www.BalloonTeam.net

Notes:

\* Irish Aviation Authority: The Irish Semi-State regulatory body responsible for aviation within in Ireland.

Web: <http://www.iaa.ie>

\*C.A.A: The Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), The regulatory body responsible for aviation within the U.K.

Web: <http://www.caa.co.uk>

\*ComReg : The Irish statutory body responsible for the regulation of the electronic communications sector (telecommunications, radiocommunications and broadcasting transmission) and the postal sector.

Web: <http://www.Comreg.ie>

\*EchoLink® software allows licensed Amateur Radio stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using voice-over-IP (VoIP) technology.

The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities.

There are more than 130,000 registered users in 150 nations worldwide!

Web: <http://www.echolink.org>



Sean Donelan EI4GK, IRTS president (left), presenting the Collins Cup to Dan Lloyd EI3AE.

Dan was awarded the Collins Cup for his outstanding service to the hobby, both during his time as a Marine Surveyor, when he conducted both theory and CW testing and after his retirement when he became Chief Morse Examiner when the Society undertook the running of CW tests. He is also active with the Phoenix Radio Club as an instructor of both theory and CW classes.

## Shannon Basin Radio Club Challenge

**November 7th**

**0800 - 2000**

The Shannon Basin Radio club is again running its annual one day Open, Fixed, Challenge for EI residents.

This challenge is open to all licensed operators and short wave listeners and will be held on the 7th of November 2004 from 0800 to 2000.

The purpose of the challenge is to encourage radio operators and short wave listeners to be active on the H.F bands. The aim is to work as many stations in as many DXCC entities as possible so any SSB field day software will track your score.

The challenge will have three modes of operation, and the winner in each mode will be awarded with the following.

- The **Lough Allen Shield** will be awarded to the highest score in SSB.
- The **Lough Ree Shield** will be awarded to the highest score in CW.
- The **Lough Derg Shield** will be awarded to the highest score for SWL.
- The above winners will also receive a personal trophy.




To receive a copy of the rules for the above challenge, please send a stamped address envelope to the contest manager:

Noel Mulvihill EI6HW,  
Hillquarter, Coosan,  
Athlone,  
Co Westmeath  
or e-mail  
[nfmulvihill@eircom.net](mailto:nfmulvihill@eircom.net).

**N.B.** Persons intending to compete must send notification prior to the contest date.

Noel EI6HW,  
Contest Manager

### 2003 Challenge Winners

Lough Ree Shield Brian EI8IU CW	Lough Allen Shield Declan EI9HQ SSB	Lough Derg Shield Ger EI-1476 SWL
		



## EI2AIR Echolink Node

EI2AIR is the allotted club call sign of The Ballooning & Amateur Radio Club of Ireland.

EI2AIR is the first call sign in Ireland to acquire a licensed status for an internet/RF radio link.

The VOIP platform being used is Echo-link.

The link is based in Dunshaughlin, Co. Meath and is resident on 145.2875 MHz FM. It has an EIRP of 10 watts through an omni-directional antenna.

The service area of the link is within a radius of 15-20 miles of Dunshaughlin, depending on line of sight with the link antenna.

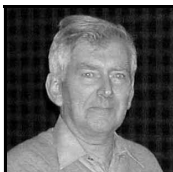
The EI2AIR Internet link is unique in the fact that it can be interrogated to tell the time and weather forecast as well be utilised as a proper internet amateur radio link.

It can also accept live amateur radio transmissions from 'Puffin', the Ham Friendly Hot Air Balloon.

From within range of the link and using your DTMF equipped 2m transceiver, you can:

- **Check the status of the link:**  
Key in [321].
- **Operate *outbound* thru the link:** Key in (using DTMF) the **node number of the station you wish to work.**
- **Work a random node:**  
Key in [00].
- **Obtain the time of day:**  
Key in [24].
- **Get the current weather conditions for Dunshaughlin:**  
Key in [43].
- **Receive a 7 day weather forecast for the Dunshaughlin and surrounding area:** Key in [44].
- **If you hear a station coming back thru the node, simply respond in the normal way, no DTMF tones are required.**
- **MOST IMPORTANT: TO DISCONNECT FROM A QSO USING THE LINK, PLEASE KEY IN [73].**

The EI2AIR node number is 5747.



## Reading the Mail

By  
Michael McNamara, EI2CL

Welcome to compilation #32 of "Reading the Mail" – an account of IRTS incoming QSL Bureau activity from 1 August to 30 September 2004.

During the period small packets (less than 1 kg) came from 3A, EDR, NZART, PP5, PY5, PR7, PT2-buro, RCP, and VK5.

I was well occupied also with heavier parcels from ARRL x 2, CRC, OVSV, REF, SSA, and URE.

There was also the 4.9 kg parcel, posted in Malmo, Sweden, that came from the RSGB!

Also there was the usual heavyweight from DARC with 9.5 kg of cards.

Cards from the following stations were noticed and thought worthy of mention: CW1OO, E4/OK1FHI, ET3TK, ET3PMW, HU1M, M0O, OE1XRC/90KK, PY500B, PZ5CQ, SI9AM, TP6CE, TY4DX, TY6FB, TZ6RD, V31YN, V5/DJ9KH, XT2DX, W2W, WX7M, YL800BR, 2I1WHY, 3A50ARM, 3W2LWS, 4K6DI, 4K70DWZ, 4L0G, 5H6IZ, 5U5Z, 7X2ARA, 7X0AD, 9G5FH and 9Q1A.

As well as cards from various Brazilian, Croatian, Danish, French, and German islands, for IOTA chasers the following caught my attention:

BV3/DJ3KR, BX3/DJ3KR, CT9M/p, D4B, DU9/G4UNL, FO/F8CFU, FP5BZ, FP5KE, GB4LI, JW/DJ3KR, K9V, KH7R, KL7AP/p, M1IOS, OZ0AIS, PY1NEZ/PP1, PP1CZ, PR2C, RA9LI/9, TF7/LX9EG, TF0/LX9EG/m, TO5A, VK9CD, VP2EREM, ZL7C, ZL7/G3SXW, ZS1RBN, ZX0T, ZY2C, 3B8/OE1ZKC, 3C0V, 3XD02/p, 5J0X, 5R8FU, 5R8HA/P, 9M2/GM4YXI, 9M6BAA, and 9M6TPR.

Congratulations to all recipients. Until my next report, all best wishes and lots of good DX.

Michael McNamara, EI2CL

## Spring 2004, 2 Metres Counties Contest Corrected Results

The results published in the last issue for the Low Power Portable section were incorrect. Apologies to EI7GY, EI2WRC and EI7T for the error.

	QSOs	Counties	Points	QTH
<b>High Power Fixed</b>				
1. EI7IW (EI2JD Op)	42	14	2,646	LH
<b>High Power Portable</b>				
1. EI9FVB Declan Horan	22	9	747	KY
<b>FM Only</b>				
1. EI2JO Kyle O'Connell	43	19	3,382	WW
2. EI2SBC (EI9HX Op)	33	20	2,880	RN
3. EI3IX Joe Fadden	17	13	1,092	MO
4. EI4HX Peter Grant	24	11	1,023	LH
5. EI6DL Tony Magliocco	16	10	630	WH
<b>Low Power Fixed</b>				
1. EI7HT Tom McGrath	31	10	1,010	DD
<b>Low Power Portable</b>				
1. EI7GY Joe Ryan	50	19	4,636	LS
2. EI2WRC South Eastern ARG	61	14	4,046	WX
3. Tipperary Radio EI7T	43	19	3,096	LK

Thanks to Mike EI4JL and Hugh EI6CPB check logs.



## Emergency Communications

With  
John Ketch EI2GN

### AREN NVIS Exercise Report

The AREN NVIS exercise took place over Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> & Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2004. The objective of the exercise was to ascertain the feasibility and the amount of work needed to ensure readiness for effective operation of the NVIS mode of propagation for reliable and effective EmerComms use within Ireland. It was agreed at the last meeting of the AREN coordinating panel to analyze the role of HF communications and make proposals for its use in emergency situations, this exercise is in response to this.

NVIS is an acronym for Near Vertical Incidence Skywave propagation.

The briefing document for this exercise is attached in appendix 1 of this report and it details the method of propagation.

### Callsigns Issued

For the first time in EI for Radio Experimenters, ComReg issued callsigns having four letters in the suffix.

The callsigns issued are EI0RENE to EI9RENE and these are for the purpose of conducting emergency operations including training events.

AREN coordinator John Ketch EI2GN at Ballinacourty Lighthouse in Co. Waterford activated EI0RENE. EI1RENE was activated by John Costello, EI9ESB, AREN Structure and Training, at Cromwell Point Lighthouse, Valentia Island, Co. Kerry.

### Saturdays exercise.

On Saturday a total of 6 stations called into net control EI1RENE. Conditions were good on 40 metres and generally poor on 80 metres.

Stations who checked in were:

GW0VMZ	Alistair	Wales
EI7CD	Sean	Dublin
EI6JA	Stephen	Cork
EI4DC	Pat	Clare
G8OJQ	Alan	Cheshire
EI2JD	Thos	Louth

All stations were OK for traffic on 80 metres except G8OJQ who was unworkable. All stations were ok for traffic on 40 metres except G8OJQ, but conditions were a little more difficult than on 80 metres.

EI6JN has reported calling, but nothing

was heard at EI1RENE. No other stations reported EI6JN calling.

The main conclusion drawn from Saturday's exercise was that stations were indeed workable, however the choice of frequency is an important one as evident from operations.

Stations remained workable at 50 Watts RF output and indeed many were still workable at 25 Watts.

### Sundays Exercise.

On Sunday a similar amount of stations called into Net Control EI1RENE. Conditions were good on 80 metres and generally poor on 40 metres.

It is worth noting that heavy QRM was experienced from close to the 40 metre-frequency, making operations unworkable. As a result of this experience a protocol is been developed to deal with this type of event, during an actual emergency event.

As for Saturday's operation, stations continued to be workable at low powers.

### Overall conclusions.

There is a need for careful choice of operating band for this mode of propagation. Theory dictates that as high a frequency as possible should be used and the published experiences of other groups indicate that a figure of 90% of the MUF (maximum usable frequency) of the F2 layer in the Ionosphere is a good reliable choice of frequency. It often happens that this MUF doesn't extend as high as our 40 metre band and typically resides within the 60 metre band (5 MHz). It is ok to use a lower frequency but absorption then becomes an issue as was seen on Sunday's operation.

A clear and decisive protocol is being developed for when QRM is experienced during AREN operations. A clear and decisive protocol is being developed for frequency choice; so as to ensure reliable communications paths are used.

The August event was a valuable field exercise in the overall activities associated with NVIS and experience gained from the event will be used within the training program currently being developed for AREN by the coordinating panel.

Report by John Costello EI9ESB.

## SSB Field Day

The annual SSB Field Day held over the first weekend in September attracted seven entries, four restricted stations in Ballinasloe and open section stations in Cork, Wexford and Kilkenny.

Following the success of last year's event, when seven stations attended the centrally held event in Garbally College, it was decided to try it once again but unfortunately only two clubs were able to attend.

The locally based Shannon Basin Club had their new mobile shack on show and their operators were Pat EI9HX, Fergus EI6IB, Niall EI4CF, Brian EI8IU, Mick EI5EAB, Tony EI6DL, John EI8DL, Tony EI3HA

Members of the Galway Radio Experimenters Club operated in comfort from a large van and their crew was Enda EI2II, Ronan EI8HJ, Tom EI6ER, Larry EI9CN and Kieran Burke.

The usual two single operator entries, Joe Ryan EI7GY from Dublin and Dave EI4BZ from Cork travelled furthest to take part.

### Barbeque

A feature of the weekend at Garbally was the barbeque hosted by the local club on the Saturday night. This was very professionally done by Tony EI3HA and Pat EI9HX and a radio silence was declared for the duration.

In County Cork, members of Cork Radio Club travelled to East Cork and operated the callsign EI1C/P together with members of the East Cork Group. Four nationalities were represented on the operating team.

Down in Wexford, EI9E/P was operated from Forth Mountain by EI9HQ, EI7FJ, EI2FG and EI7FXB, a coalition from Cork, Waterford, Wexford and Dublin.

This station was so-sited with a serious VHF station taking part in the IARU Region One 2 Metres Contest.

Tipperary Radio Group members travelled to the Kilkenny QTH of Paul EI5ENB and set up a station in the open section. EI7T/P was operated by EI2IT, EI2JB, EI3ENB and EI3FFB.



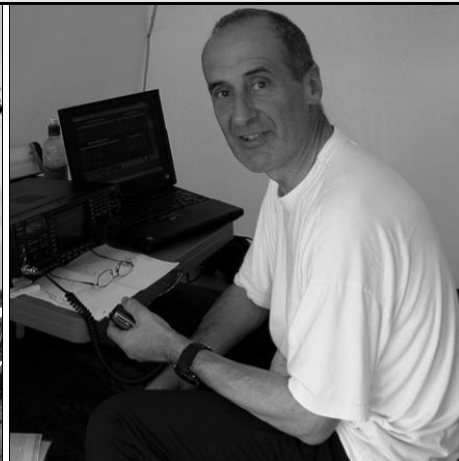
# SSB Field Day 2004



Enda EI2II



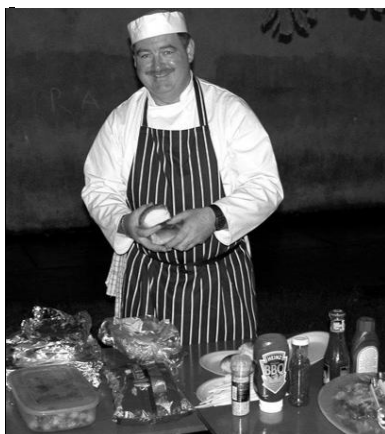
The Shannon Basin Club caravan on the field day site



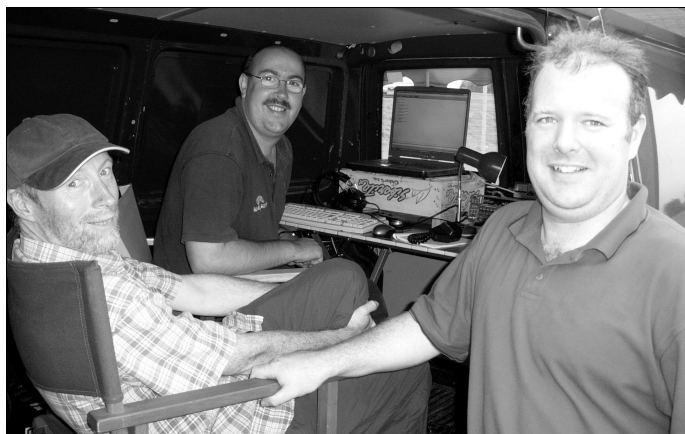
Joe Ryan EI7GY



Niall EI4CF



Chef Tony EI3HA



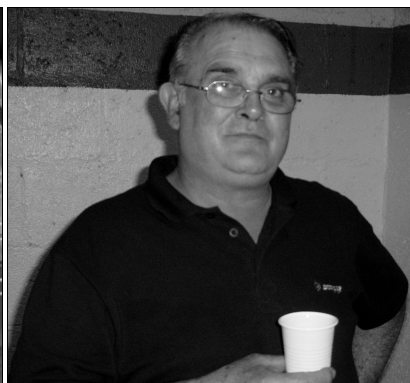
Tom EI6ER, Enda EI2II & Ronan EI8HJ



DH5ST, EI1CS, EI2GN, EI4JF, EI3EG, EI8HS



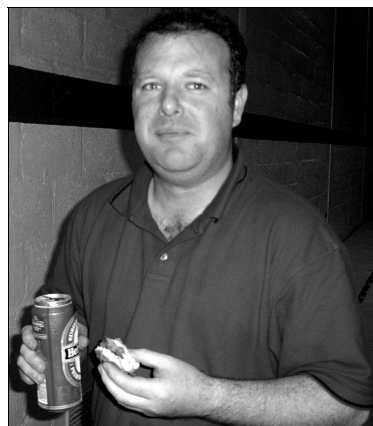
Dave EI4BZ



Mickey EI5EAB



EI9HX operating EI2SBC/P



Ronan EI8HJ



Niall EI4CF & Fergus EI6IB

# VHF in EI 2004

by Charles Coughlan EI5FK

This article gives a summary of what was heard and worked mainly on 144 & 432 MHz from January to mid October 2004, it will give an idea to people what can be worked on VHF.

The Quadrantids meteor shower is very reliable and usable on 144mhz and provides for qso's well in excess of 1400km to be easily worked, this peaks around 3<sup>rd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> January, this year I managed to complete 14 qso's in DL, PA, LA, SM, EA, OE, I, OZ and OK with distances ranging from 944 to over 1850km, no other EI's were heard.

Tropo in 2004 was quite poor from Ireland with few enough real Dx openings, the path to EA was open in mid February for a few days to the north coast, EA1DKV & EA1DDU were about the strongest heard and worked on 144/432MHz, listen for EA1VHF/B on 144.404 in IN53 square, this is a great indicator of the path being open, unfortunately it is very close to the EI beacon which for reasons unknown to me is vertically polarised and of little use since 99% of VHFers use horizontal aerials.

FSK441 provided most of the activity on 144 MHz for the first 6 months of the year leading to the ES season.

June/July are generally well known for nice sporadic E openings but 2004 was very poor on 2m, and even on 50 MHz openings were not anywhere near as intense as previous years. In fact I caught just one double hop opening on 6m to USA this year.

Compare 19 QSO's & 4 DXCC in 2004 to 148 QSO's and 18 DXCC in 2003 on 144 MHz and you can see that it was a poor year.

I did not include too much 50MHz information in this report as at this stage of the solar cycle there was no F2 to be worked and in my opinion Sporadic E on that band is no real challenge.

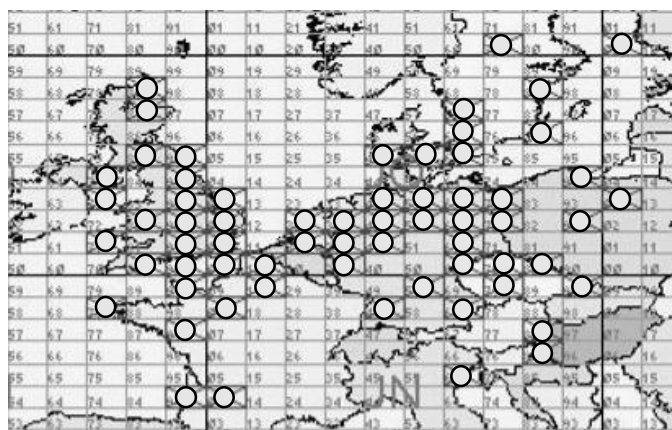
However I was happy to work 7X0AD on June 28<sup>th</sup> for the 1<sup>st</sup> EI/7X qso on that band

50 MHz was reasonable from the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in May to late July for sporadic E with plenty Europeans to be worked and several EI's active.

2 excellent Auroral openings on 25<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> July were the highlight of the year for me.

Not in a long time have I worked so much on 144MHz, 105 QSO's in 64 squares & 16 DXCC in the 2 days, 99% of these QSO's were on CW (remember that Morse stuff).

The map below shows the squares worked on the 25<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup>.



Best DX worked in this aurora was

25/07/2004 13:36 SP4MPB KOØ3HT 52a 52a CW 1958 km  
25/07/2004 13:41 SP4JWD KOØ3FR 52a 52a CW 1948 km  
25/07/2004 16:18 OM3RM JN87RM 55a 59a CW 1919 km  
27/07/2004 15:37 OH1NOR KPØØXL 51a 52a CW 2094 km

DXCC worked included

9A (Croatia) 9A6NDX 27/07/2004 14:23  
DL (Germany) DL5YM 25/07/2004 13:11  
F (France) F6APE 25/07/2004 15:14  
G, (England) G4KWQ 25/07/2004 11:29  
GI, (Northern Ireland) GI4FUE 25/07/2004 15:08  
GM (Scotland) GMØTGE 25/07/2004 13:44  
GW (Wales) GW3LEW 25/07/2004 12:24  
OE (Austria) OE5XBL 25/07/2004 16:27  
OH (Finland) OH1NOR 27/07/2004 15:37  
OK (Czech Republic) OK2POI 25/07/2004 14:00  
OM (Slovak Republic) OM3RM 25/07/2004 16:18  
OZ (Denmark) OZ1DLD 25/07/2004 13:07  
PA (Netherlands) PAØJMV 25/07/2004 13:58  
S5 (Slovenia) S51ZO 25/07/2004 14:36  
SM (Sweden) SK6DK 25/07/2004 14:51  
SN (Poland) SP2IQW 25/07/2004 13:00

All on 144mhz

50 MHz was excellent during this opening with EI7IX and EI7BMB having a field day.

Next was the annual Perseids Meteor shower peaking 12-13 August but usable easily 1 week either side of this, this netted me ES6RQ and a few OH/OH0 stations, most were new stations/squares, activity was reasonable, a lot of people were on the cluster or Chat, rather than calling Cq. Again there was a serious lack of EI activity.

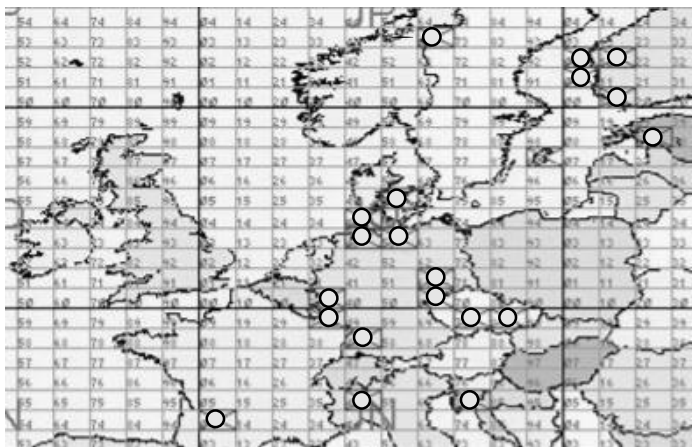
My log from August 1<sup>st</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> on FSK441 reads

Date	Time	Call	Locator	QRB
03/08/2004	00:44	DL6KR	JO3ØNQ	1095
03/08/2004	14:42	OH6ZZ	KP12BO	2170
06/08/2004	09:43	OK2ZAW	JN89BI	1754
07/08/2004	09:09	DJ8ES	JO43SX	1233
07/08/2004	09:45	DL3LST	JO61FI	1446
07/08/2004	10:12	OK2BDS	JN79WF	1741
07/08/2004	23:14	OZ1LPR	JO44UW	1255
08/08/2004	07:24	ES6RQ	KO28WA	2276
09/08/2004	16:25	SK5CR/3	JP63XQ	1858
11/08/2004	10:42	OH6KTL	KPØ2OJ	2118
11/08/2004	12:37	OH1XT	KPØ1UK	2109
11/08/2004	13:03	DH3VE	JN39II	1108
11/08/2004	16:39	OH1JCS	KP1ØAE	2091
11/08/2004	22:21	DO1CTL	JO6ØLT	1493
11/08/2004	23:53	DK9TU	JN48MF	1314
12/08/2004	12:11	OZ7Z	JO44VW	1260
12/08/2004	12:35	DM2SR	O53HR	1302
12/08/2004	12:52	IW2HAJ	JN45NO	1463
12/08/2004	14:15	SK4BX	JO97OF	1873
13/08/2004	22:39	OZ8ZS	JO55RT	1380
19/08/2004	08:40	S53J	JN75EV	1791
20/08/2004	13:33	F5VHX	JNØ4FT	1022

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

EI4DQ was the only other EI who I observed active during the Perseids.



August 30<sup>th</sup> provided us with another nice aurora, I came across this shortly after arriving home from work, it had been in progress for a 2 or 3 hours at this stage, contacts were made to several DL, G, SP, F and G stations, unfortunately it was a short lived event.

The 144 MHz contest in the first weekend in September is always good for some relatively local QSO's and this is what I worked during this event:

Date	Time	Call	Locator	QRB
04/09/2004	14:47	GM2T	IO85RU	597
04/09/2004	14:49	MØLKB/P	IO84KE	448
04/09/2004	14:52	F5SGT/P	IN87KW	579
04/09/2004	14:55	GØHAS/P	IO8ØWP	465
04/09/2004	15:00	G8SRC/P	IO91CL	467
04/09/2004	15:02	G3CKR/P	IO93AD	469
04/09/2004	15:06	TM3Q	JNØ9TT	747
04/09/2004	15:16	F/PE1BBI/P	JNØ9IT	686
04/09/2004	15:20	ON4WY	JO11LC	800
04/09/2004	15:25	G5B	IO92WS	582
04/09/2004	15:28	GM3HAM/P	IO74WV	451
04/09/2004	15:45	G4PIQ	JOØ1MU	658
04/09/2004	15:52	GM4ZUK/P	IO86RW	689
04/09/2004	15:59	GOVHF/P	JOØ1PU	675
04/09/2004	16:16	G4DBL	IO91JH	510
04/09/2004	16:32	G8NJA/P	IO8ØIJ	399
04/09/2004	16:57	G2KF	IO7ØPP	297
04/09/2004	17:03	G4ADV	IO7ØLK	288
04/09/2004	20:10	TM2K	JO1ØKA	824
04/09/2004	21:14	F6KSV	IN78RJ	475
05/09/2004	07:07	F5MGD	JNØ7AW	750
05/09/2004	07:09	G4ALY	IO7ØVL	337
05/09/2004	07:20	GW3JXN	IO72RC	276
05/09/2004	07:32	F5KKD/P	JOØØQB	721
05/09/2004	07:42	G7RAU	IO9ØIR	518
05/09/2004	07:52	PA6NL	JO21BX	868
05/09/2004	07:59	PI4Z	JO11WM	856
05/09/2004	08:03	G8P	JOØ1QD	690
05/09/2004	08:22	G4CQR/P	JOØØDR	626
05/09/2004	08:27	G8EYV/P	JOØ2CE	600
05/09/2004	08:39	OR4A	JO1ØUU	856
05/09/2004	08:52	TM6OD	JNØ9NW	709
05/09/2004	10:11	G1KHX/P	IO81MH	390
05/09/2004	10:52	EI9E/P	IO62QH	142

05/09/2004	11:35	G8TIC/P	JOØ1KJ	651
05/09/2004	11:55	M1VPN/P	IO7ØQO	304
05/09/2004	12:50	GØHDV/P	IO93UK	585
05/09/2004	13:02	GW4IDF/P	IO81NV	389
05/09/2004	13:28	F9OE	IN78QG	483
05/09/2004	13:46	GI6ATZ	IO74AJ	335
05/09/2004	13:58	GØKYS/P	IO8ØAQ	342

EI9GQ and EI2IV were both fairly active during this event.

Tropo conditions were reasonable a few days after this for about 48 hours and netted:

Date	Time	Call	Locator	Mode	QRB
06/09/2004	22:14	OZ1LPR	JO44UW	JT65	1255
07/09/2004	17:45	OE2CAL	JN67NT	CW	1610
07/09/2004	17:49	DL3TW	JO44SK	SB	1237
07/09/2004	18:17	PI9CM	JO22VA	SSB	981
07/09/2004	18:48	DK7BY	JO33RJ	SSB	1092
07/09/2004	19:37	DLØRSH/P	JO44PD	SSB	1218
07/09/2004	19:41	DL5NAV	JO33TF	SSB	1102
07/09/2004	19:57	DCØNAC	JO43VI	SB	1247
07/09/2004	21:05	DL2OAT/P	JO43VI	SSB	1247
07/09/2004	1:27	PE1HWO	JO21GV	SSB	897

I worked the following stations on EME during the year using a single 17 element aerial, 400w, no preamp or elevation, using JT65B:

25/05/2004	00:14	KB8RQ	EM79SV
		24 x 13ele +1.5kw,	also on 10/10/2004
26/05/2004	01:00	N5BLZ	EL29EW
		4 x 24ele + 1.5kw	
29/05/2004	15:36	I2FAK	JN45PB
		24 x 19ele 1,3Kw	
21/07/2004	22:25	K2TXB	FM29PT
		2 x 16ele Klm + 1.5kw	
23/07/2004	12:10	RK3FG	KO86HP
		4 x 18ele at least +1.5kw	
11/08/2004	17:40	JH2COZ	PM94MX
		4 x 14ele 3.6wl +1kw	
20/08/2004	11:30	PAØJMV	JO21PM
		Joop uses 2 aerials, here 150w	
23/08/2004	18:20	DF7KF	JO3ØGU
		16 x 18 ele & QRO	
26/08/2004	21:02	S52LM	JN65TX
		7 x 17ele 800w	
03/09/2004	22:36	ZS6LEE	KG5ØJF
		4 x 5.5wl 2M18XXX 900w	
10/10/2004	16:24	K7MAC	DN13TU
		4 x 15el 1kw	

Another Tropo opening to the south on September 21<sup>st</sup> netted CT2GUR IM59ML Paulo on 2m running 9 ele + 50w along with several EA stations in IN53 square on both 144 and 432MHz,

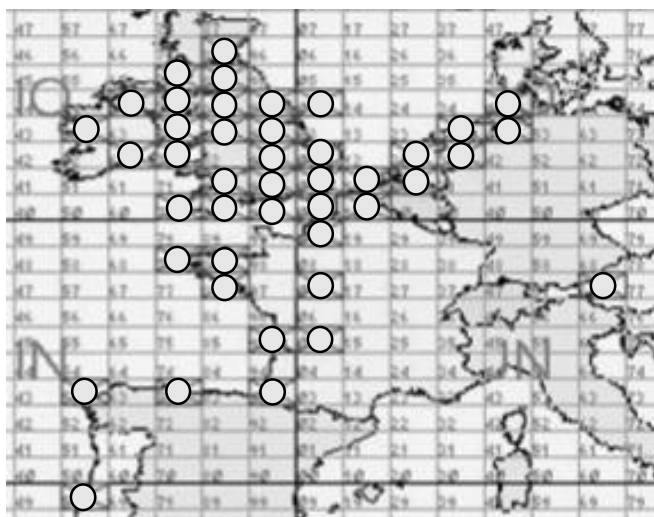
Best Tropo during September was at the end between 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and many EA/F stations were worked on 144/432 MHz, best DX was with EA8BPX on the 28<sup>th</sup> a distance of 2698km.

The day before F6FHP Joel in IN94TR gave me an ODX of nearly 1000km on 1296MHz. He was running 200w + 55ele

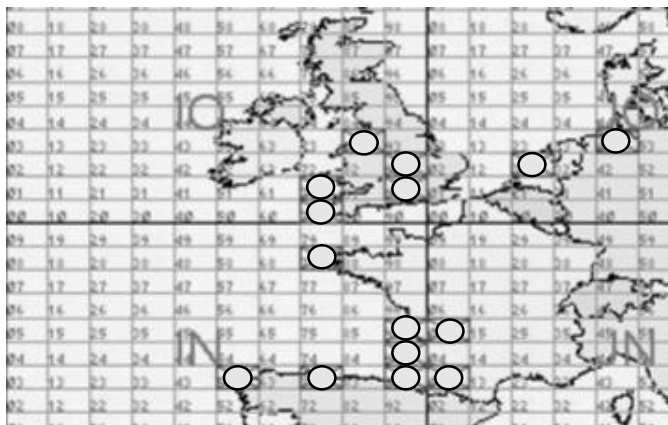
The map on the following page shows squares worked via Tropo on 2m in September.

(Continued on page 22)

(Continued from page 21)



The map below shows squares worked via tropo on 70cms in September.



1296 MHz was a new venture for EI9GQ, EI2IV and myself in 2004.

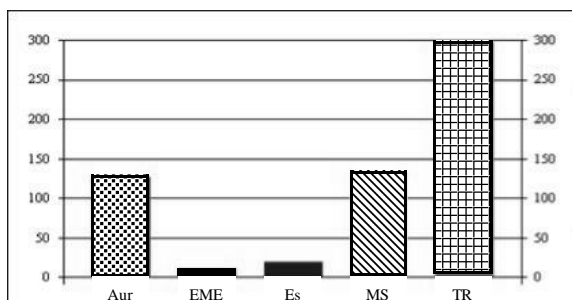
Ski '9GQ has built a very impressive receive set-up including cavity RX filters and is hearing very well with a homebrew long Yagi on that band.

I use a 55ele + 10w with a terribly long run of Westflex 103 coax & no masthead preamp, the losses are really unacceptable but it will have to do for the moment.

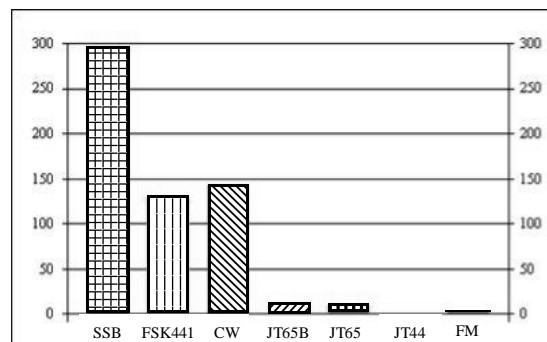
My total for 23cms in 2004 is 13 initial QSO's in 8 squares and 6 countries including EI, G, GW, GM, GD and F.

During the summer I managed to work GW3LEW, a distance of 265km, 7 out of 8 days that we tried on CW.

I'm including some statistics from my 2004 144 MHz log showing first of all QSO's worked by different propagation modes.



Next showing modes worked on 144 MHz to show that "not all" my QSO's are on digital modes J.



Highlights of 2004 must have been the OH, OH0, TF, ES, YL stations worked along with the several new /mm squares that G0KZG Andy gave me all on 144MHz. I heard Alan EI3EBB IN52 square working G0KZG also.

During the year the lack of EI's active on 144 MHz surprised me. EI9GQ was most active and I heard EI8IP, EI4DQ & EI8JK from time to time, but these were by far the most active.

I made 2 changes to my system in 2004, changing to a 17 element M2 aerial and purchasing a GS35 amplifier.

Next year my receive set-up will have to be looked at.

73 and see you all.

Charles EI5FK

<http://www.qsl.net/ei5fk/>

## South Eastern Amateur Radio Group



Pictured above is the antenna that EI2WRC/P used in the Autumn leg of the Counties Contest. The extreme winds on White Mountain, Co. Wexford that day put quite a bend on the antenna and forced them to set it up lower than planned. It also ensured that all operation took place from the back of the car.

# Awards - Worked All Continents

In recognition of international two-way amateur radio communication, the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) issues Worked-All-Continents certificates to amateur radio stations of the world.

Qualification for the WAC award is based on an examination by the International Secretariat, or a member-society, of the IARU of QSL cards that the applicant has received from other amateur stations in each of the six continental areas of the world. All contacts must be made from the same country or separate territory within the same continental area of the world.

All QSL cards (no photocopies) must show the mode and/or band for any endorsement applied for.

Contacts made on 10/18/24 MHz or via satellites are void for the 5-band certificate and 6-band endorsement.

All contacts for the QRP endorsement must be made on or after January 1, 1985 while running a maximum power of 5 watts output or 10 watts input.

The following information should be helpful in determining the continental area of a station located adjacent to a continental boundary.:

North America includes Greenland (OX) and Panama (HP).

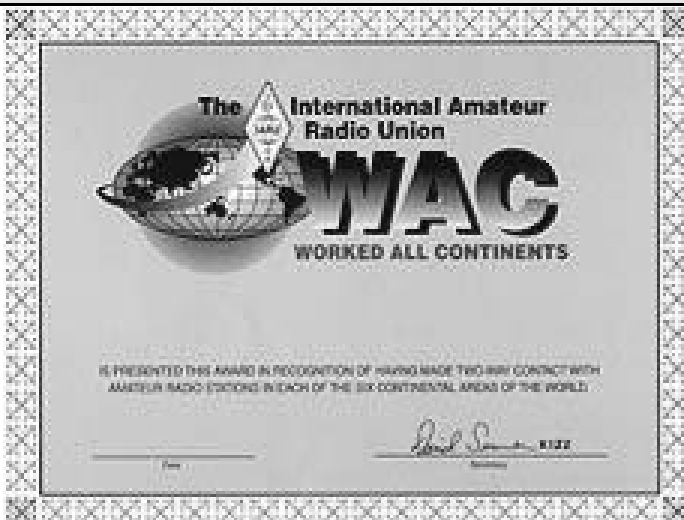
South America includes Trinidad & Tobago (9Y), Aruba (P4), Curacao & Bonaire (PJ2-4) and Easter Island (CE0).

Oceania includes Minami Torishima (JD1), Philippines (DU), Eastern Malaysia (9M6-8) and Indonesia (YB).

Asia includes Ogasawara Islands (JD1), Maldives (8Q), Socotra Island (7O), Abu Ail Island (J2/A), Cyprus (5B, ZC4), Eastern Turkey (TA2-9) and Georgia (4L).

Europe includes the fourth and sixth call areas of Russia (R1-6), Istanbul (TA1), all Italian islands (I) and Azores (CU).

Africa includes Ceuta & Melilla (EA9), Madeira (CT3), Gan Island (8Q), French Austral Territory (FT) and Heard Island (VK0).



## ***For amateurs in the United States or countries without IARU representation***

WAC application forms are available in TEXT and PDF formats.

Once completed, applications should be directed to Eileen Sapko, Awards Manager, ARRL, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111.

After verification, the cards will be returned and the award sent soon afterward. There is a \$7.50 fee for US applicants. Sufficient return postage for the cards, in the form of a self-addressed stamped envelope is required. US amateurs must have current ARRL membership.

## ***For other amateurs***

Applicants must be members of their national amateur radio societies affiliated with IARU, and apply through the society.

## **New RB5 70cm Repeater in Limerick**

The Limerick 70cm Repeater is now running on test.. Rx on 433.125 and you Tx on 434.725 MHz, the "standard" +1.6 MHz shift.

The 2m "remote base" or "cross-link" mode rig is now operational.

This combines all the features of a 70cm voice Repeater with a "crossbander". A user on 70cm can remotely by DTMF tones now select ANY 2m repeater channel or simplex channel to link. This does not affect 70cm repeater operation.

Users should announce their call sign and what remote operation on the 2m rig is happening. We recommend disable the 2m Rig link prior to frequency changing and re-enable afterwards.

From the test location R5 and R6 are fine and R1 is very noisy.

Please email reports and queries to EI9FEB@eircom.net.

If the facility is abused it may be disabled remotely. The frequency can also be locked by the "system operator" Access to open the repeater initially is only via 70cm and may require 1750Hz tone burst or DTMF tones \* \* \* (Star three times).

A mobile phone with Keypad tones "on" has been found to work fine for DTMF commands. Many handheld rigs, such as VX1R and similar, with no keypad, allow advance memory programming of tone sequence to change 2m repeater linked by two presses of the same button.

The 2m rig can also be set to "listen only". This can be used on Ch 32 145.800 to listen to ISS downlink.

Michael Watterson  
11 Laurel Park, Patrickswell,  
Co. Limerick  
+353 61-215842

## **Marconi Radio Experimenter's Club**

The Marconi Experimenter's Club is a new club just formed in Galway.

The club membership currently consists of some very experienced and active licensees including EI0CL, EI0DE and EI3DJ.

One of the main aims of the club is to promote interest in Ham/Experimental radio. The club plans to achieve this through the demonstration, open days to secondary and tertiary students, advice and help for obtaining licences. The club is open to suggestions and of course membership is open to anyone with a genuine interest in the hobby.

*(News taken from the October edition of Experimenters News issued electronically by Cellcom Ireland Ltd., Deerpark, Oranmore, Co. Galway. To subscribe to this news, send an email with SUBSCRIBE in the subject line to ahiggins@cellcom.ie).*



# Contest Corner

With  
Dave EI4BZ  
ei4bz@eircom.net

Hello again,  
Lots of results this time and plenty to keep you all busy over the next two months with lots of nice contests on both SSB, CW and RTTY.  
Hopefully conditions were good for the CQWW SSB contest and we hope a few new EI records were set.  
The CQWW CW is on at the end of November and there has been little progress made with new EI scores over the past couple of years. Rumours of a few serious entries have been heard and we look forward to new marks being set in several categories.  
We had hoped to have the IOTA claimed scores in this issue but they are not still announced.  
That's all for this time.  
Enjoy the contests coming up.  
73  
Dave EI4BZ

## CQWW CW EI Records (Up to and Including 2003)

	Callsign	Score	QSOs	Zone	DX	Year
All	EI4BZ	1,913,512	2,542	95	329	02
10	EI6BT	198,128	838	31	91	00
15	EI8GP	358,150	1,388	32	98	00
20	EI3DP	525,968	1,715	36	106	96
40	EI4BZ	197,912	1,131	23	81	00
80	EI4BZ	142,870	1,140	18	73	01
160	EI7M (9HC)	123,214	858	19	72	96

### Low Power

LAll	EI4DW	844,190	1,225	80	210	99
L10	EI5DI	238,784	1,087	25	66	92
L15	EI6FR	246,848	1,171	32	101	98
L20	EI6FR	264,537	1,035	29	104	96
L40	No entry					
L80	EI6FR	56,161	742	12	59	97
L160	EI7IU	31,507	482	11	50	98

### Assisted (packet)

A All	EI4DW	453,789	655	81	262	01
A 10	EI6FR	370,678	1,269	36	118	99
A 15	No entry					
A 20	EI8GP	142,044	602	26	88	96
A40	No entry					
A80	No entry					
A 160	No entry					

### Multi-Single

MS	EI7M	3,815,169	3,395	121	398	93
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### Multi-Multi

MM	No entry					
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## CQWW CW Contest 2003

		Points	QSOs	Zones	DXCC
All Bands HP	EI4DW	389,990	696	80	215
All Bands HP	EI2JD	92,685	305	51	134
All Bands LP	EI7JK	84,624	327	47	134
All Bands LP	EI6HB	52,682	264	41	101
All Bands LP	EI9ES	7,820	110	12	56
14 MHz LP	EI4CF	104,386	429	30	104

## EI Results

## ARRL SSB DX Contest 2004

## EI Results

Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	Power	Band
EI8IR	536,877	1,479	121	SO	High	All
EI4DW	158,301	451	117	SO	High	All
EI7CC	55,056	248	74	SO	Low	All
EI6D	6,726	59	38	SO	Low	All
EI4CF	32,928	224	49	SO	Low	20
EI4IS	25,608	194	44	SO	Low	20
EI9HQ/M	2,508	38	22	SO	Low	20

## ARRL CW DX Contest 2004

## EI Results

Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	Power	Band
EI7M	2,320,302	2,854	271	MS	High	All
EI4DW	264,420	565	156	SO	High	All
EI2JD	106,488	306	116	SO	High	All
EI7JK	79,515	279	95	SO	Low	All
EI9ES	17,640	105	56	SOA	Low	All
EI6D	29,394	142	69	SO	Low	All
EI4CF	53,703	351	51	SO	Low	20
EI4HQ	9,300	100	31	SO	Low	40

## ARRL 10 Metre Contest 2003

## EI Results

Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Class	Mode	Power
EI7M	357,200	759	152	MO	Mxd	High
EI2SDR	149,072	418	121	MO	Mxd	High
EI5GM	219,898	588	139	SO	Mxd	High
EI4CF	57,780	204	90	SO	Mxd	Low
EI2JD	28,440	241	60	SO	Phone	High

## ARRL 160 Metre Contest 2003

## EI Results

Call	Score	QSOs	Mults	Power
EI6BT	4,148	62	34	High
EI4CF	390	17	13	Low



## Mayo Gears Up For Third Rally.

The third Mayo Rally takes place on Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup> in Knock's Belmont Hotel. The choice of the venue was made on the basis that it was the most suitable in the east of the county, thereby minimising journey times for travelling visitors. The Belmont Hotel in the famous village is an ideal location with ample car parking, a large hall and excellent dining facilities.



This year's rally features the many and varied exhibitors and traders to which enthusiasts have by now become accustomed, ranging from the bigger and well-known national dealers, to the many smaller specialists that the Mayo rally attracts. The Bring and Buy Stand, which is very professionally run by the Mayo club, is for many, the star attraction of the show. Sources within the club have indicated that this year's Bring & Buy will be bigger than previous years. But the club has led the way in other aspects of rally organisation, with visitors treated to exhibitions and talks on a number of different aspects of the hobby. Last year's demonstration on the threat to the amateur service posed by PLT was particularly well received. This year the club has arranged a number of presentations including a demonstration of Win Radio and a talk on packet radio in Ireland by Dave Court EI3IO.

Traders confirmed at the time of writing include Long Communications, South East Communications, Cellcom Ireland, Tony's Models, McGrath Antenna Components, Sean Martin, Connect-U2, WiNRADiO, Elecraft, Practical Wireless, Jackson Engineering, Bracken Vintage Radios, Ken Stevens - Computers & Components, Tony Kenny Radio & Communications, Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club, John Sherwood, Jimmy Towey, Dave Dillon, Taheny's Eurosavars, and Laptop World, amongst others.

This year's rally is preceded by a Dinner on Saturday November 20<sup>th</sup> in the Belmont Hotel at 7.30 pm. The informal dinner affords traders and visitors an opportunity to relax on the eve of the rally. A prominent guest speaker has been confirmed for the event.

The Mayo Radio Experimenters Network has arranged a special accommodation deal with the Hotel for bookings made through the club. Bookings for the dinner, accommodation and all enquiries for the rally should be made to Padraic Baynes, EI9JA, on 087 6957154.

### International Space Station 1st QSO with EI

Congratulations to Seamus EI9CF from Mullingar who had the first QSO from EI with the ISS.

Flight Engineer Mike KE5AIT operating under callsign NA1SS on Sunday evening September 26th at 20:40 local time (19:40 GMT) told Seamus it was his first QSO with EI before signing off with "Erin to Bragh".

## Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

The D.A.R.S held it's Annual General Meeting on Wednesday the 6th Oct with a full attendance of members. The new committee elected for the coming year is:

Chairman -	Thos Caffrey EI2JD
Secretary -	Oscar Reynolds EI7IW
Treasurer -	Jim Daly MI3SBI
QSL Man -	Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX

Some of the activities DARS and it's members were involved with last year were reviewed by the meeting and these included the EI Counties Contests, VHF Field Day, Islands On The Air (IOTA), Summits On The Air (SOTA), Jamboree On The Air (JOTA), EU Enlargement as EI25YL and ATV.

There has also been recent improvements made on the 2m Repeater R3 on 145.675 MHz with the replacement of the antenna. Please do check it out as we would like to receive some reports from around the country.

A number of items were discussed for the coming year including HF, VHF, UHF and Microwave activities.

The next meeting of DARS will be held on the first Wednesday of November (3rd) at 113 Castletown Road, Dundalk at 8 o'clock. All are welcome to attend.

## Limerick Packet Upgrades

The Limerick packet node, EI4PKT has been upgraded. This now connects via direct cable to ARRA EI7M-4 which in turn is a direct 4m link to Ardfinnan BBS EI3DIB and Kells EI4KRC.

Easy connection from Limerick to Donegal EI5TCR DXCluster node via Kells as an alternate to connection to EI8IR DXC via Ardfinnan or Cork.

Google for EI9FEB packet to find the packet and voice repeater web pages now.

Some new commands on Limerick 144.600 MHz 1200 baud packet are:

Talk, for a multiparty chat  
DXC, to auto connect to EI8IR DXCluster  
BBS, to auto connect to EI3DIB BBS

EI4PKT and EI7M-7 are now also fully enabled as TCP/IP over packet repeaters, though some teething problems exist with TCP/IP operation.

However traditional packet operation is now much more reliable and faster on the Limerick node.

From Limerick you can now reliably connect to :  
Shankill, Dublin via Kells EI7KCR-2 and Arra EI7M-4 or to UK via Waterford I.T. EI3RCW and Ardfinnan EI3DIB-8

Contact Mike on ei9feb@eircom.net for any more info, or to help testing TCP/IP.

If you are a packet repeater keeper why not contact ei9feb@eircom.net to discuss adding TCP/IP on your node.

Thanks to Ronan EI8HJ for his testing of TCP/IP traffic from Galway to Patrickswell via Limerick repeater.



# Mayo Radio Experimenters Network



## RALLY 2004

**Sunday November 21 11.30 am**  
**The BELMONT HOTEL, KNOCK**

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**Elecraft**  
**Practical Wireless,**  
**South-East Communications,**

**All Rally Enquiries To:**  
**Padraic Baynes, EI9JA**  
**on 087 6957154**

**Jackson Engineering,**  
**Bracken Vintage Radios,**  
**Ken Stevens—Computers & Components**  
**Tony Kenny Radio Communications**  
**Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club,**  
**Cellcom Ireland,**  
**John Sherwood,**  
**Sean Martin,**  
**Jimmy Towey,**  
**Taheny's Eurosavers,**  
**Dave Dillon,**  
**Laptop World,**

### *And of Course....*

- [ Mayo's Famous **Bring & Buy**—almost a Rally in itself
- [ Everything for the Radio Amateur, CBer, Short-Wave Listener
- [ Antennas, Components, Computers, Laptops, Books,
- [ Exhibitions, Demonstrations,
- [ *Something For All The Family & The Neighbours Too!*

***Plus much, much more!***

**Don't Forget Our: Pre-Rally Dinner in the Belmont Hotel on Saturday Nov. 20th. 7.30pm**  
**Tickets €25.00**

## Your Letters

### Submarine QSO in 1963

Dear Editor,

Have read Echo Ireland and was surprised at the article on the Swedish Submarine. It brought back pleasant memories to me about a QSO I had many years ago.

It was 1963, I was reading a magazine in the shack and the rx was on (in those days we had separate rx and tx ).

I had the rx on 14mcs, all was quite, this was of course in the days of AM, all of a sudden I heard a W calling CQ.

The band had been dead for the last hour and I was surprised to hear him and he was S9+++ . His call was W4NMK/MM. I gave him a quick call and back he came. He was operating from the US Submarine Cutlass, cruising off the east coast USA

After exchanging names reports etc he dropped a bombshell on me. He said he was cruising along 50 feet below the surface, the diesel engines were running and they were taking in air from the snorkel tubes.

The antenna was a whip tied to the snorkel tube. I was in a state of shock, we talked for about twenty minutes and then made our 73.

After this all hell broke loose as the whole of Europe had been listening and after he worked about four other stations he went QRT.

W4NMK was the subs skipper and his name was J.D. Reilly.

I now have a QSL card from W4NMK made out to EI3Y which states 'running submerged 50 foot under the sea' ..

What a QSO, it will probably never be repeated.

Thanks for reminding me of one of the best QSOs I ever had..

73 de Ian EI3Y.

## Outgoing QSL Bureau

**Please mail your cards directly to  
The Outgoing Bureau Manager**

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,  
Rathlin, Kilcrohane,  
Co. Cork.  
ei8jk@amsat.org**

**Please do not send outgoing cards to  
P.O. Box 462.**

## Members Advertisements

**For Sale:** HF Transceiver Yaesu FT-1000MP. Excellent condition.  
Phone 087-2956894

**For Sale:** Yaesu 221R. All mode. Solid state, power supply built in. One owner. Non smoker.

Digital Readout YC221 for 221R.

Desk metered mike to suit.

Pair 89850 valves.

Signal Generator Tech Type TE 20D

Kenwood World Clock, Digital Model HC-10.

Hallcrafters Keyer Model HA-1

Offers to EI9BR. Phone 01-2809382 anytime.

Could the Dublin Amateur who was looking for an external VFO for a Yaesu FT-101ZD contact Willie Long at 074-9737017.

He has what you were looking for.

**For Sale:** Kenwood 7400, 2m mobile. Yaesu 8100 2m/70cm FM mobile Kenwood TS440S with ATU and speech chip

Kenwood TS450 with ATU and speech chip

Contact Aedan EI3EG on 021-4851406 daytime or 021-4343648 evenings.

**For Sale:** Yaesu FT 757DX with PSU, mike, manual

Kenwood TS440S, auto ATU, mike, manual in PWO.

Kenpro 400 Rotator, medium duty.

Contact Enda EI2II on 086-6004474.

**For Sale:** Yaesu FL2100B linear amp with manual and one spare bottle. Pwo. MLP62 Log Periodic 50-1300 MHz. Tx/Rx gain 10 to 12 dB with rotator. Icom 8500, as new, still under guarantee.

Tel: 061-397004.

## Contest Calendar

### November 2004

1/7th	0000-2400	HA QRP Contest	CW
6/7th	1200-1200	Ukrainian DX Contest	CW/SSB/RTTY
6/8th	210-0300	ARRL Sweepstakes	SSB
13/14th	0001-2359	Worked All Europe DX Contest	RTTY
13/14th	0700-1300	Japan International DX Contest	SSB
13/14th	1200-1200	OK/OM DX Contest	CW
20/21st	1200-1200	LZ DX Contest	CW/SSB
20/21st	12100-1200	RNARS Activity Contest	CW
20/21st	1600-0700	All Austrian DX Contest 160m	CW
20/21st	2100-0100	RSGB 1.8 MHz Contest	CW
20-22nd	2100-0300	ARRL Sweepstakes	SSB
27/28th	0000-2400	CQ Worldwide DX Contest	CW

### December 2004

3/5th	2200-1600	ARRL 160m Contest	CW
11/12th	0000-2400	ARRL 10m Contest	CW/SSB
17th	2100-2300	Russian 160m Contest	CW/SSB
18th	0000-2400	OK DX RTTY Contest	RTTY
18th	0000-2359	RAC Canada Winter Contest	CW/SSB
18/19th	1400-1400	Croatian CW Contest	CW
18/19th	1500-1500	Stew Perry Topband Contest	CW
18/19th	1600-1600	International Naval Contest	
26th	0200-0959	RAEM Contest	CW
26th	0830-1059	DARC Xmas Contest	CW/SSB



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IC 746	@	€1,480
IC 706MIIG	@	€ 950
IC 756 PRO	@	€1,500

*All boxed as new, 2 year warranty applies.*

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IC 756 PRO II	@	€2,890
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*Last of line Bargain:*

IC R8500	@	€1,750
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